

IDF will remain in Hebron during PA elections

THE IDF will not leave Arab areas of Hebron during Saturday's Palestinian elections, but will try to stay away from the polling stations, government coordinator Maj.-Gen. Orco Shabor said yesterday during an evaluation of Israeli-Palestinian preparations.

Mahmoud Abbas (Ahu Mazao), chairman of the Central Election Commission, said two weeks ago that the IDF had agreed to withdraw troops from populated Palestinian areas during the election.

This is only one of the possible points of friction between Israel and the Palestinians, as election day approaches amid fears on both sides of possible attacks.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority are concerned that Islamic radicals or other extremists are intent on avenging the assassination of bomb-maker Yihye Ayyash, or disrupting the elections, or both.

Hebron and Jerusalem are the focus of concern. Five post offices in east Jerusalem, normally open on Saturday, will remain open when balloting takes place in them for the convenience of a few Jerusalem voters who are supposed to vote outside Jerusalem, Shabor said.

A vote in the post office will be considered a postal vote and the ballot box will resemble a post box, with a slot on the side rather than on top, which will then be

taken outside Jerusalem for the vote count.

"It's symbolic," said Brig.-Gen. David Hacham, Shabor's deputy. "We call it a special arrangement. It is not an official voting station."

He said that only 5,000 of the 49,000 resident Jerusalem voters will be able to vote at the post offices.

The remainder will be allowed past roadblocks to vote outside the city.

The symbolic separation of Jerusalem and the West Bank was lost on three Jerusalem women candidates, who have been campaigning together although they

JON IMMANUEL

represent different parties. Hanan Ashrawi (independent), Zahira Kamal (FIDA-Fatah), and Rama Nashashubi (People's Party) held an impromptu rally at the A-Ram checkpoint after soldiers refused to allow Ashrawi to enter Jerusalem with campaign posters plastered on her car.

"What kind of election is this if we cannot campaign in Jerusalem?"

"Israel does not want Palestinians in Jerusalem to vote. This only helps those who oppose Oslo and the elections. Last week we were allowed in, now we are not," said Kamal.

"We agreed that campaigning

would only be allowed in certain places," Shabor said. Campaigning in Jerusalem is strictly limited to indoor meetings, and campaign posters are restricted to 35 locations, though posters can be seen elsewhere and on cars.

"There is no difference between Jerusalem and the West Bank," supporters of the three candidates shouted.

Security was tight yesterday with Israelis barred by the IDF from entering Ramallah, following stone-throwing incidents there.

Al-Hayat al-Jadida quoted Palestinian special security chief Amin Hindi as saying his men arrested several supporters of Abu Nidal two weeks ago and

discovered an arms cache to be used for attacks inside the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Meanwhile, the Voice of Palestine radio continued broadcasting two-minute campaign spots around the clock for each of the 672 candidates to fulfill the election law's pledge of "equal and fair" access to the media "free of charge."

More foreign observers are joining those already here. Yesterday, former Jordanian prime minister Abdel-Salam Majali arrived for what he called "this historic occasion."

Former US president Jimmy Carter, who has monitored elections in several countries, is due to arrive this week.

Court rejects petitions on PA ballot in Jerusalem

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected two petitions against having balloting for the Palestinian Authority elections in Jerusalem, saying this does not infringe upon Israeli sovereignty in the capital.

The petitions were filed by three Likud activists: former Jerusalem city councilman Elisha Peleg, former ambassador to the US Zehava Galant, and MK Yehoshua Matza. They argued that the use of city post offices as polling stations impinges on Israeli sovereignty, and therefore violates the Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel.

The petitioners charged that arrangements for the PA elections in no way resemble absentee balloting. The envelopes will not require a stamp; post office clerks will be required to check voters' identities before allowing them to vote; residents of eastern Jerusalem will be on the ballot, as well as on the voter rolls; and Jerusalem is listed in the interim agreement as one of the 16 voting "constituencies" for the PA council.

However, Justices Gavriel Bach, Ya'acov Kedmi, and Dalia Dorner rejected these arguments, saying they "do not find ... any contradiction between the proposed arrangement ... and the fact of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem."

"The fact that they are putting ballot boxes in Jerusalem ... Does this in any way contradict the idea that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel?" Bach asked.

Dorner said the very fact that the PA requires Israeli permission to set up the polling stations confirms Israeli sovereignty over the city.

"You say [Yasser] Arafat has a different interpretation," she added. "But I don't interpret according to Arafat's interpretation. This is our law, and our country."

"When two interpretations of a law are possible, the justices explained in their ruling, the courts always choose the one which best accords with other legislation. In this case, this means choosing the state's interpretation that balloting in eastern Jerusalem does not contradict the basic law."

They also stressed that the government signed an agreement which included balloting in Jerusalem, and could not be expected to renege on it.

Furthermore, they noted, according to the state, the eastern Jerusalem polling stations do not contain actual ballot boxes, but are rather collection points for ballots which will be sent on to the PA.

The petitions, the justices said, were actually counterproductive, because they would, if accepted, lend credence to any future claim by the PLO that Israel has already waived its rights in eastern Jerusalem as part of the Oslo process.

Collaborator charged with being double agent

RAINE MARCUS

A PALESTINIAN who cooperated with the GSS was charged yesterday with spying for the Palestinian Authority.

Banan Tzowan, who was permitted to live in Jaffa by the GSS and who had cooperated with the authorities, became a "double agent," according to the indictment presented in Tel Aviv District Court, and agreed to spy for Fatah.

He was approached by Mohammed Salami, representing himself as a Fatah intelligence officer, who asked him to supply him with information regarding collaborators and to provide him with weapons.

Tzowan, 35, is charged with espionage, conspiracy, and illegal possession of firearms.

Tzowan, read the indictment, complied with Salami's requests, and not only supplied him with information regarding other collaborators, but also provided data on his GSS operators. He also sold two pistols and ammunition to Salami.

Salami also asked Tzowan to obtain an M-16 rifle, and was allegedly told by Tzowan that there was "no problem." According to the indictment, Tzowan gave Salami hand grenades to prove his willingness to cooperate.

His brother-in-law, Abed Abu Shahab, also a GSS collaborator, was also indicted on charges of assisting Tzowan in obtaining weapons.

The two were remanded until the end of legal proceedings.

GSS destroys Hamas cell in Kalkilya

ON LEVY

THE General Security Service revealed yesterday that it has broken up a Hamas cell in Kalkilya, arresting two of its members. Two others were arrested by the Palestinian Police.

The two, Hasraad Sulim and Nassim Shanti, confessed to slightly wounding an Israeli when they fired at a car near Nablus on November 10.

They said they were recruited into Hamas in mid-1994, and along with their two comrades, planned to attack an Israeli car, kill its driver and passengers, steal their weapons, then blow up

the car. Last October they purchased a pistol, and learned how to prepare a home-made bomb and rig a gas canister to explode. They also reconnoitered the area in which they intended to make their attack.

They said that on the day of the attack, after Friday prayers, they got in two cars and traveled to the attack point. Two served as look-outs, telling Sulim and Shanti that a likely target was approaching. They then opened fire, wounding one man. But the other passengers in the car fired back, and the four fled.

Zvi Katzover backs IDF plan to oust K. Arba squatters

HERB KEINON

KIRYAT Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover said yesterday that he backs an IDF proposal to move squatters out of a Kiryat Arba neighborhood for a year to allow border policemen to move in.

Thirty-six squatters in the Ashmoret Yitzhak neighborhood received an order last week, signed by OC Central Command Mag.-Gen. Ilan Biran, ordering them out of the apartments.

The apartments are to be used by IDF and Border Police that, as part of the Oslo Accords, will soon be moving out of their base in Hebron. A number of the squatters in the apartments have said they will fight attempts to evict them.

Ashmoret Yitzhak, on the

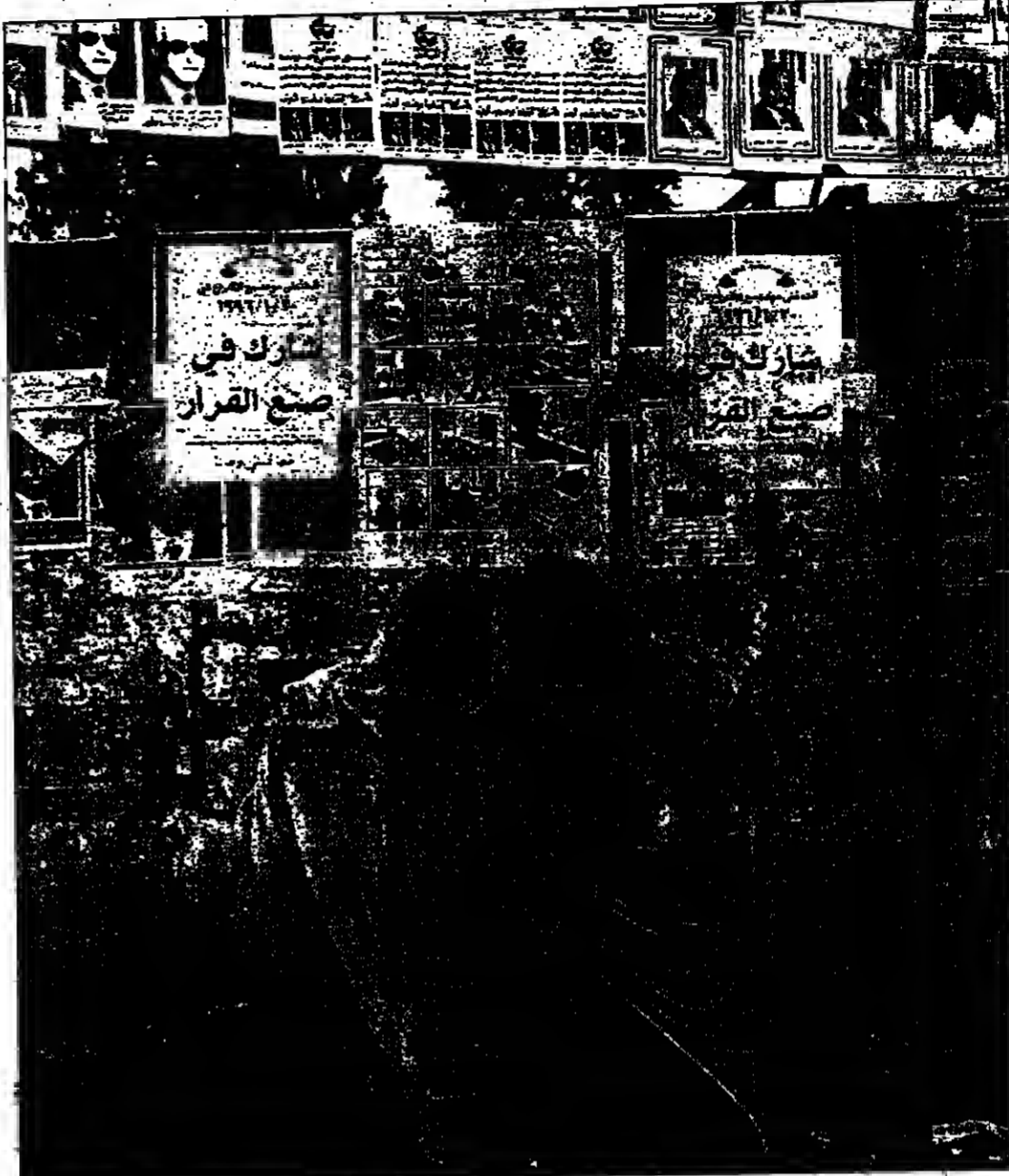
edge of Kiryat Arba and within a few meters of Arab homes, was built by the previous Likud government, but the apartments there were never put up for sale as part of this government's housing freeze in the settlements.

On July 8, 1994, a day after Sarit Prigal was killed near Kiryat Arba, a group of residents moved into the homes. They later left, after other finished but empty apartments in Kiryat Arba were put up for sale. This summer, however, a number of other families moved into the homes.

Katzover told Arutz 7 that the IDF and Housing Ministry, after months of negotiation with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, agreed to move the squatters out of the neighborhood for a year. During that time, the IDF will find other quarters for the soldiers and Border Police. "We want them to leave on their own," Katzover said of the squatters, "and then get the apartments back a year later."

But Shumel Ben-Yishai, one of those in the neighborhood, told Arutz 7 that "there are many other empty buildings in Kiryat Arba, and there is no reason to uproot the families with children who live here. If the IDF has a problem with living quarters, let them take over other empty buildings, not these."

Ben-Yishai took the leadership of the settlement to task for agreeing to a compromise.



Two women pause in front of a billboard on a Gaza City street yesterday to discuss campaign posters placed there by candidates running in Saturday's Palestinian elections. (Reuters)

Shahal to appear before Shamgar panel

BILL HUTMAN

INTERNAL Security Minister Moshe Shahal is scheduled to appear before the Shamgar Commission today, to help explain the police's role in the failure to protect prime minister Yitzhak Rabin the night he was murdered at a Tel Aviv rally.

Police have largely put the blame for the security failure on the General Security Service.

Sources close to Shahal said the minister would reiterate before the commission the major responsibility for protecting the prime minister lies with the GSS. Before the assassination, po-

lice also gave the GSS information on right-wing extremists who were potential threats to the prime minister, the sources said.

Shahal believes the commission largely supports the police assessment of the security failures that led to the assassination, the sources said.

The sources noted six GSS officers, including outgoing service head Karmi Gillon, were issued warning letters by the commission.

But only one police officer re-

ceived one.

Yesterday, D., head of the GSS Protection Department, began presenting his response to the commission's allegations that he failed in his duties.

D., who resigned from his post immediately after the assassination, is scheduled to continue his testimony this afternoon.

The Protection Department head and the four other GSS officers who were issued warning letters reportedly do not plan to bring witnesses on their behalf to testify before the commission. This should speed up the inquiry.

Pope: Jerusalem crucial to peace

HAIM SHAPIRO

ANY hope of peace could prove ephemeral is the problem of Jerusalem was not resolved, Pope John Paul II warned this weekend.

His words came only a few days before his meeting in the Vatican with Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret, who is due in

Rome tomorrow. Speaking to the assembled ambassadors to the Vatican from more than 160 countries, John Paul II also criticized Muslim states which, he said, denied religious freedom.

The gathering was attended by Israeli Ambassador Avi Pazner. It was also the first such gathering attended by the Palestinian representative.

In his comments on Jerusalem, which came at the very beginning of his message, the pope lauded the peace process, which he hoped would allow Israelis and Palestinians to live "from now on side by side, with one another, in peace, mutual esteem, and sincere cooperation."

"But allow me to confide that this hope could prove ephemeral if a just and adequate solution is not also found to the particular problem of Jerusalem," he said. Although he did not specify what he regarded as such a solution, he did repeat the Vatican view that there should be international guarantees concerning the city.

"The religious and universal dimension of the holy city demands a commitment on the part of the whole international community, in order to ensure that the city preserves its uniqueness and retains its living character," he said.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig contributed to the report

Fighting resumes in security zone

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING resumed in south Lebanon yesterday, following a brief lull which coincided with the latest diplomatic shuttle between Damascus and Jerusalem by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Several South Lebanese Army posts in different parts of the se-

curity zone came under fire in the morning. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Reports from Lebanon said the attacks were directed against SLA positions near the villages of Barasheet and Hadatha in the western sector, and Kanbara and Taloua in the central region.

In deep sorrow the staff and students of **The Dr. Israel Goldstein Youth Village** mourn the passing of

BERT GOLDSTEIN

Beloved "Grandmother", Friend and Patron and send sincere condolences to **Professor Avram and Dody Goldstein Professor Paul Olum and their families.** May her memory be a blessing.

NA'AMAT ISRAEL extends condolences to the family of

Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN

Member and leader of Na'amat in the USA and Israel who devoted her life and gave generously to her people, her country and her beloved city of Jerusalem.

Ofra Friedman President, Na'amat Israel and the entire Na'amat Family

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

LEON SHALIT ז"ל

His wife, **Lilly**
Sons, **David, Michael,** and their families
Sister, **Rosa Goldberg,** and her family

He bequeathed his body to science.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Ms. Sheila Finestone, Canadian Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women, to participate in the 21st World Women Conference and the day long Symposium on the Status of Women which is one of its major events.

ברוך ד"ר ב"ר האמת

Bert Knesset Moresheet Yisrael Yerushalayim and The Center for Conservative Judaism of the United Synagogue pay tribute to the memory of

Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN ז"ל

A longtime friend and supporter who passed away in her 101st year.

Our beloved

Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN ז"ל

has passed away.

Mourning by her family, **Dr. Avram and Dody Goldstein grandchildren and great-grandchildren** as well as her many friends.

The funeral will take place today, **Monday, January 15, (Tevet 23) at 10 a.m.** at Sarhedria cemetery, Jerusalem.

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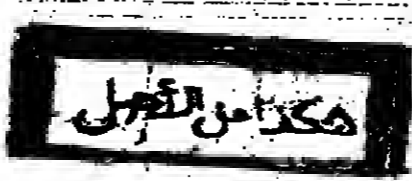
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Western nuclear equipment leaves for N. Korea

SEOUL (AP) - The first ship carrying equipment for two nuclear power plants that will replace a suspected nuclear weapons program in North Korea left a southern port yesterday, maritime officials said.

The 1,042-ton Chinese freighter Yanlong 4 left Pusan, South Korea, yesterday morning after loading equipment to be used mainly for site surveys in the North for the planned reactors, they said.

It was the first Western-made gear to be shipped to the communist North since a 1994 nuclear deal in which Washington promised to build the reactors at an estimated cost of \$4.5 billion.

The North pledged to freeze and eventually dismantle its current nuclear program, suspected of being an atomic bomb project in disguise.

The shipment followed a December agreement on the terms of building the modern light-water reactors, which will produce far less weapons-grade radioactive material than North Korea's existing Soviet-designed reactors.

The cargo includes drilling and seismic testing gear and pumps and was expected to arrive in Rajin, a port on North Korea's northeast coast, tomorrow. It will later be transported by truck to Sinpo, a fishing village where the North wants to build the reactors.

Bad weather had delayed the shipment for three days.

Seoul officials said a 20-member team of international nuclear experts, including 17 South Koreans, will arrive in North Korea tomorrow via Beijing.

The experts will conduct site surveys in Sinpo following up on the results of three earlier visits, organized by the Korea Peninsula Energy Development Organization, a US-led consortium set up to coordinate the reactor project.

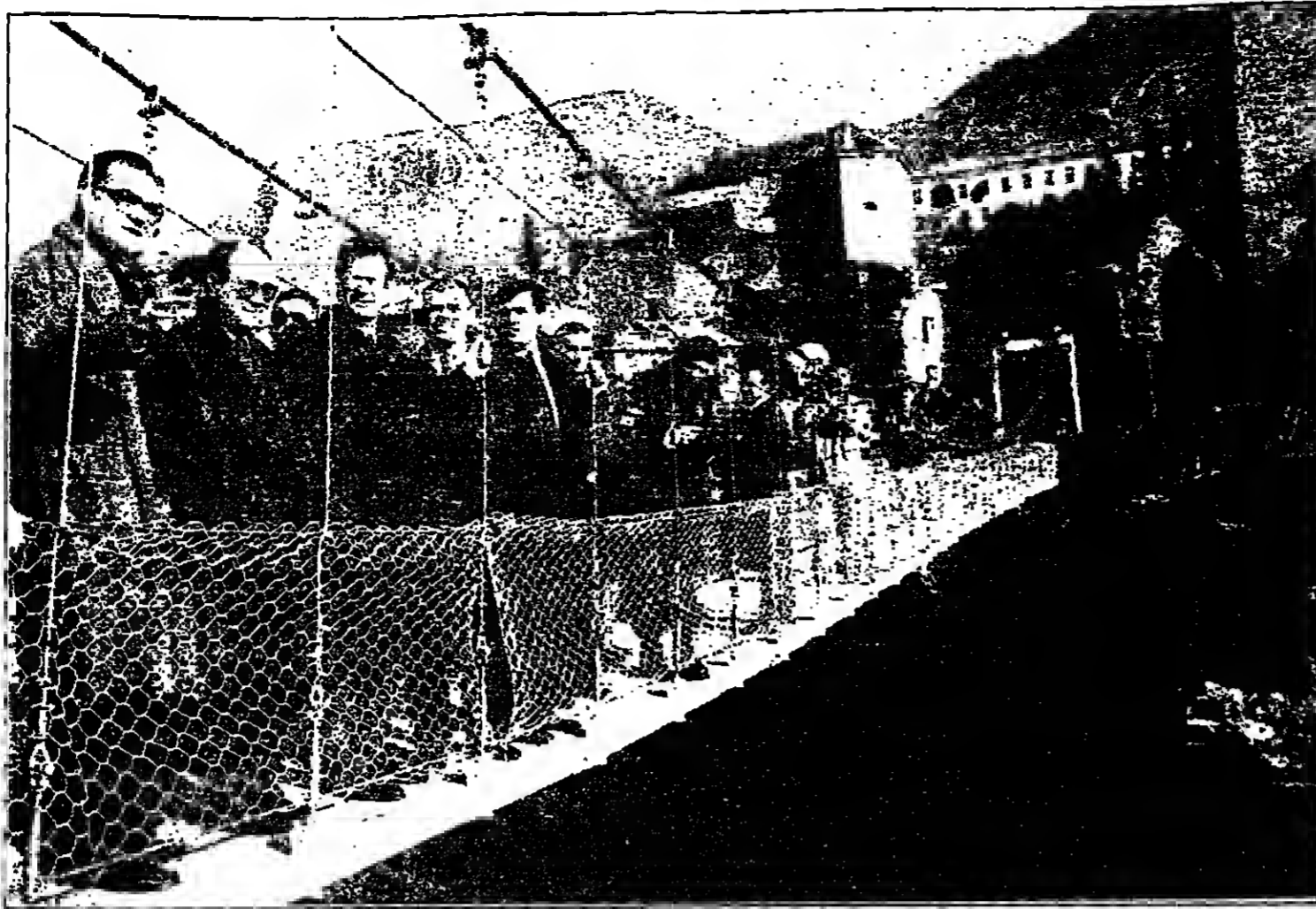
Zambian and UN authorities are mulling over the fate of a North Korean diplomat's wife in Zambia who reportedly has asked to defect to rival South Korea, officials said yesterday.

North Korea claims that Choe Soo Bong, 36, wife of a North Korean diplomat in Zambia, was kidnapped by South Koreans and that she was held in the South Korean Embassy.

The diplomatic row over the woman, reportedly a daughter-in-law of a high-ranking North Korean communist party official, could further strain already tense relations between the two Koreas, bitter enemies since their division into the communist North and capitalist South in 1945.

Foreign Ministry officials said that Choe, citing disenchanted with the North's communist regime, asked the South Korean embassy in Zambia last week to grant political asylum.

The Embassy handed her over to the Zambia government to decide her fate along with officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, they said.



EC Administrator for Mostar Hans Koschnik, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and his Bosnian counterpart Mohammed Sacirbey (first four men from left to right) stand on the temporary bridge over the Neretva river in Mostar after their talks yesterday on securing peace in Bosnia. (AP)

Moslem-Croat alliance is EU objective

GERMAN Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met yesterday with his Bosnian and Croatian counterparts in Mostar to try to reduce Croat-Moslem tensions in the southwestern city.

The visit by Kinkel, the European Union's chief contact in Croatia, came on the heels of President Clinton's visit to Bosnia.

Clinton, visiting US troops in northeastern Tuzla on Saturday, praised NATO's peace-keeping mission, only hours after the peace accord was violated by renewed fighting between Moslems and Croats in the northern Usora valley.

The Usora incident only added to the mistrust that has divided Mostar between the two ethnic groups since 1993. Attempts to reunite the city have been unsuccessful, and a Moslem and a Croat were killed there by small arms fire this month.

In the wake of Clinton's visit, international efforts turned to shoring up the crumbling Moslem-Croat alliance at the heart of the peace plan for Bosnia.

The commander of NATO forces in the country, US Admiral Leighton Smith, as well as Kinkel, visited divided Mostar yesterday.

Like Clinton, Smith lent his voice to efforts to douse the ethnic conflict there but was careful not to commit the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) to a big role in the dispute.

News agencies SARAJEVO

He and Mostar's EU administrator Hans Koschnik rejected a Moslem appeal for IFOR to patrol the entire city, stressing it was a job for civilian police.

"Peace in the Balkans is a problem for IFOR, peace in the city is my duty," Koschnik said.

The Moslem-Croat Federation, formed two years ago in a US-brokered deal to end a Moslem-Croat war in 1993, has also been threatened by confrontations over territory between the two sides' armies in northern Bosnia in recent days.

NATO spokesman Colonel Mark Rayner said in Sarajevo yesterday the tension near Doboj in northern Bosnia had eased after NATO troops got the opposing sides to communicate with each other and withdraw their forces to previous positions.

Hardliners on both sides have blocked all moves towards power-sharing, with extremist Croats still hankering after their own ethnically pure state in southern Bosnia and union with Croatia, whose President Franjo Tudjman underwrites them.

"The federation is absolutely central to the peace plan," said one Western diplomat. "If

it is not there as a counterweight to the Serbs and a functioning government this whole thing is up in the air."

Kinkel appeared to lay the blame for the Mostar tension squarely on the Croat side. "Clearly forces on the Croatian side, who want to disrupt the federation, are at work," he told journalists.

Kinkel pledged support for Koschnik, who he met accompanied by Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic.

Bosnia's Moslem Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic accused Bosnian Croats of eroding the federation.

"This shows that something is rotten deep down," he said.

"When you come from Croatia, all the way to the border in Mostar... you have a feeling you are in Croatia; everything from the uniforms to the flags is the same, and everything looks like Greater Croatia, not Bosnia," he said.

He said that while the two sides had discussed Mostar for a year and a half, nothing had improved.

"On the contrary, what is happening is that the division of Mostar is being cast in stone and legalized in a way, something which some people - myself included - will never accept because the division of Mostar is the division of Bosnia, and this is what we fought against."

FDP rebels spark tension with Kohl, threaten coalition

BONN (Reuters) - Three deputies of Germany's struggling liberal Free Democrats threatened yesterday to rebel against Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition, a move that would put at risk his thin majority.

Kohl, whose coalition only has a 10-seat edge in parliament, rebuked the liberals and said in a newspaper interview that "threatening gestures do not help."

Kohl had scolded the liberal party only a week ago for damaging his coalition's image with their

internal squabbles. His Christian Democrats (CDU) and Bavarian sister party form a union which is the larger coalition partner in the Bonn parliament along with the Free Democrats (FDP).

The FDP, once the kingmaker of coalitions, is desperate to revive its flagging fortunes after suffering a series of regional electoral disasters.

Its support dropped to 6.9 percent of the vote in 1994 from 11 percent in the 1990 election.

The FDP deputies said they would vote against Kohl's next budget in the autumn if the government did not start to reduce the so-called "solidarity surcharge", an unpopular tax designed to cover the cost of German unification.

"I can't imagine that FDP ministers will vote for a budget without a reduction in the solidarity surcharge," FDP deputy parliamentary speaker Wolfgang Weng told the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag*.

Also making the threat were party chairmen in Schleswig-Holstein and Bavaria, Juergen Koppelein and Max Stadler.

Kohl warned the liberals, who are under great pressure to do well in three upcoming state elections, that they should not disrupt the coalition in trying to win votes.

"It is completely pointless to fight an election campaign against the Union. The FDP must not mistake their political opponents: the Greens and the Social Democrats," Kohl told *Welt am Sonntag* in an interview.

Socialist Sampaio elected president of Portugal

LISBON (Reuters) - Socialist Jorge Sampaio was triumphantly elected president of Portugal yesterday in succession to outgoing head of state Mario Soares, television exit polls said.

Sampaio, 56, a former mayor of Lisbon, crushed his conservative rival, former premier Anibal Cavaco Silva, in the head-to-head election winning up to 60 percent of the vote, the polls said.

The mild-mannered lawyer polled between 56 and 60% against 40 to 44% for Cavaco Silva, according to a poll carried on the state RTP television station as voting booths closed at 7 p.m.

The SIC private television gave Sampaio 59% against 41% for Cavaco Silva, who governed Portugal as Prime Minister for 10 years until his Social Democrats lost power to the Socialists in last October's parliamentary elections.

The official count was still continuing and electoral officials expected to have a definitive result late yesterday.

Although Sampaio went into the election with a clear lead, Cavaco Silva appeared to have been chipping away at his advantage in the final days of the campaign.

If confirmed, it will be the first time the traditionally cautious Portuguese have elected a president and government from the same party since democracy was established in the country following the 1974 revolution.

Although the Portuguese presi-

dentcy is largely ceremonial, the president can use a veto to delay government legislation. His power to dissolve parliament also makes him a pivotal figure during any political crisis.

Sampaio, who has virtually no government experience, had traded heavily on the image of outgoing President Soares, a fellow Socialist, during his campaign.

He had portrayed himself as being above the political fray and able to assume the "father of the nation" role the immensely popular Soares had nurtured during two five-year terms.

Cavaco Silva, whose loss will be his first-ever electoral defeat, had campaigned heavily on his record of office saying that only he had the experience to give good advice to the prime minister in the tough times that lie ahead for Portugal.

The Socialist government, which has promised to pay more attention than its Social Democrat predecessor to social issues, faces a difficult task in getting the economy into shape for Europe's planned monetary union.

But although Portugal modernised and grew quickly during Cavaco Silva's 10 years in office, his leadership was often controversial for his aloof and slightly authoritarian style.

Critics had questioned how a man accustomed to being in full control of government would adapt to the more subtle powers of the presidency.

Europe sets sights on economic ties with Asia

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission this week sets out its shopping list for a March summit in Bangkok between the European Union and 10 Asian tiger economies that will focus on politics and improved trade.

The contents of the list, to be finalized in Brussels tomorrow, has been thrashed out ahead of time in consultation with officials from Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

It is, in fact, a less than subtle attempt by the 15-nation European Union to harness its geriatric economies to the raw energy being generated by the 10 Asian countries.

Included in its aspirations are strengthened political contacts at both bilateral and multi-national levels, greatly enhanced trade and investment, promotion of human rights and democracy, protection of the environment and cooperation in regional security issues.

"The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) will constitute one of the most important initiatives undertaken by the European Union and its member states and 10 of the most dynamic countries in Asia," according to a background paper on the meeting prepared by the Commission, the EU's executive body.

"The first ASEM should constitute a new milestone by allowing the participants to give impetus to the political will to intensify political dialogue, strengthen trade and economic relations and reinforce cooperation in various fields between the two regions," a draft statement from the Commission to the EU's Council of Ministers says.

"This new partnership should be based on the promotion of political dialogue, the deepening of economic relations and the reinforcement of cooperation in various fields," it adds.

All the participants in the Bangkok summit on March 1 and 2 have been at pains to ensure that the meeting stresses the positive - politics, trade and economics - and states cautiously over the more contentious issues such as human rights, democracy and social protection.

"In the eyes of the Asian participants, the declared aim of ASEM is to reinforce the weak link in the triangle of relations between Asia, North America and Europe," the Commission's draft to the Council of Ministers says.

"The Asian participants thereby hope that Europe will pay much greater attention to, and have greater presence in Asia so as to balance their relations with other partners."

GORE

(Continued from Page 1)

General Uri Savir told a visiting AIPAC delegation last night that Israel had to weigh its alternatives regarding Syria. "The alternative to a Syria which establishes peaceful relations with Israel and strengthens its ties to the US and the West while anticipating economic development, is a Syria which closes in on itself, turns toward Iran and fundamentalism, and continues the arms race."

Syria, meanwhile, said yesterday that it would not be pressured by the approach of Israel's general elections to accept a peace deal that did not meet its full demands.

"We in Syria are not governed by the time factor, nor will we work under pressure to rush after solutions which are mutilated or not well-cooked," the official *Al-Thawra* newspaper said.

Christopher ended a four-day tour of the region yesterday, during which he announced that Syria and Israel will resume their talks in the US on January 24 with the participation of military experts.

Christopher, who held separate talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Peres, said on Saturday that he was confident the two sides could reach a peace deal this year.

AYALON

(Continued from Page 1)

Peres said that the decision to permit the publication of Ayalon's name and picture had been made in view of the media discussions of the new GSS head's identity. But he stressed that this decision should not be viewed as a precedent, and said that all further reporting on activities of the GSS, including its head, would be subject to military censorship.

Several cabinet ministers attacked the media for publishing

Gilon's address, calling it irresponsible in view of the threats to his life.

On another issue, the cabinet empowered Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal to instruct the Jerusalem police chief to take appropriate measures to prevent the waving of PLO flags during a pre-election rally planned for Thursday by the Palestinian Center for Research.

The police are expected to make the prohibition of flags a condition for the granting of a license for the rally.

East is East, West is West, and then again, there's the MIDEAST.....history, biography, politics...

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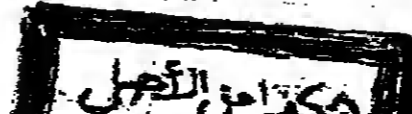
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He's a musical mountain-climber

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Chechnya and Dagestan are not names much associated with culture these days, but for many centuries these and other Caucasian regions were the seat of a rich Jewish heritage.

The Mountain Jews, as they were referred to by the former Soviet authorities, had their own, unwritten musical tradition.

Now, thanks to 35-year-old composer Peretz Eliyahu, who immigrated from Dagestan seven years ago, that music has been documented and over 100 hours of it recorded.

In his own compositions, including *Paradise*, which will be premiered by the Musica Nova ensemble next week - Eliyahu tries to draw on that tradition.

There are 38 different ethnic communities living in Dagestan, including Jews who have lived

there for many centuries now. There is a strong belief that these Jews are direct descendants of one of the Ten Tribes. Already in the seventh century there was a flourishing Jewish community there," he says.

Eliyahu himself was born into a family of musicians in the ancient city of Derbent. "My grandfather and father performed authentic folk music. I studied at the music conservatory in the capital, Makhachkala, and later continued my studies in Rostov, in Russia proper." Upon graduating he returned to teach in Dagestan.

From a very early age Eliyahu studied the music of the Mountain

Jews and his research will soon be published by the Hebrew University.

The ongoing research also led to various compositions, all of which have been performed here.

"I was the only composer in Dagestan who used texts in Hebrew and occasionally it was somewhat problematic," he notes. The Jews in that land speak a language of their own which is a mixture of ancient Persian, Turkish, Hebrew and Aramaic. Their music is closely influenced by Persian and Azeri traditions. It's basis is improvisation and the most typical rhythm is 6/8.

Their own instruments include the tar and kimaucha, both with strings, and the balaban, which is blown. "The Jews were the best musicians in Dagestan because the Moslems looked down on this art form."

Recently Eliyahu returned to his homeland with Ebad Ya'ari to film a documentary. Eliyahu will also compose the music for the program, which will soon be screened on Channel 1.

He tries to draw a clear line between composing musical history and researching it. Still, he

has moved away from serial music to compositions which are closer to his roots.

"At the end of the 19th century many French composers and Rimsky-Korsakov as well, for example, tried to inject Eastern music into 'regular' Western classical music. Then in the 20th century composers like Bartok tried to mix Eastern and Western music. I used to do that, too. Now one must acknowledge that in Eastern music there is ample depth and technique and there is no need to mix it with Western music. It can definitely stand on its own."

Harmony is not a feature of the

music Eliyahu grew up with, and his new work doesn't include a single chord. "On the other hand, the unison style I use features numerous colors and sonorities. It is a composition with a constantly changing unison and without any Western quality. I have returned in this opus to the modes of the East and I believe I will continue in this way in the future."

Paradise, Eliyahu's new opus, is composed for the traditional tar, as well as for oboe, clarinet, trumpet, harp, violin, viola and cello.

But it is not "ethnic" music, he argues adamantly. "Here in Israel when you say

ethnic music the immediate and obvious connotation is Eastern music which is rather limiting. But there is much more to my music which is why I prefer to label it 'folk' music."

"The title means to look through a curtain." My aim is to enable outsiders to have a view of the world I come from," he says.

Paradise will be premiered by the Musica Nova ensemble in a special 10th-anniversary concert taking place at Beit Recital in Tel Aviv, next Tuesday, January 22.

Staging a concert in a wedding hall, say organizers, is a unique way to celebrate an important anniversary. The audience will be treated to a festive meal while between courses one will be able to hear not only Eliyahu's new work, but also compositions by Yoni Rechter, Milhaud and Hindemith.

Second verse; same as the first

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN

DESPERADO

★1/2

Written and directed by Robert Rodriguez. Hebrew title: *Desperado*. 99 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

El Mariachi - Antonio Banderas
Carolina - Salma Hayek
Bencho - Joaquim de Almeida
Also with cameos by Quentin Tarantino, Steve Buscemi and Cheech Marin

Legend has it that young Texan directorial hopeful Robert Rodriguez raised the \$7,000 needed to fund his 1992 debut, *El Mariachi*, by serving as a guinea pig in a cholesterol drug experiment.

With these meager funds, he and a few buddies managed to piece together a sweet little ballad of a film that combined the dusty settings and bold colors of a Mexican border town with the stark outline and smothered folk legend types of a classic Western.

It was also a huge, unexpected success. After *El Mariachi* snagged the prestigious Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, "Columbia" Pictures swooped down on Rodriguez and offered him a deal to release the film theatrically and sponsor a \$6 million sequel. The 24-year-old action-movie buff eagerly agreed and has since gone on to become, in the words of the press packet that accompanies the follow-up, *Desperado*, "one of Hollywood's hottest young directors."

Hot, of course, is a dubious term and one that bears almost no relation to the filmmaker's real abilities or to the quality of the movies he makes. Just last year Quotient Tarantino was hot, very hot. But he has quickly blown his small cachet by frittering it away on overexposed, misguided ventures like an undistinguished segment of the TV show *ER* (thymes with P.R.), an unfunny *Saturday Night Live* and too many spots on Jay Leno. He who lives by hype, it seems, dies by hype.

(Indeed, Tarantino seems a good deal smarter behind the camera



Steve Buscemi (left) and Antonio Banderas, who brings a sculpted countenance and beefcake frame to the role of Mariachi in Robert Rodriguez's remake of his own film.

...in front of it. In interviews he doesn't sound like late-20th-century American cinema's answer to Godard so much as a doped-up sufferer of average intelligence. He also puts in a wise-cracking cameo in *Desperado* which verges on severe self-parody. "It's cool, man, it's cool," he declares, before getting his face blown off.)

After weeding past all this belly-hoo - and pushing away speculation about the detrimental impact fast money and fame must have on a fledgling artist - the real questions become: Has Columbia Pictures helped Robert Rodriguez by making him hot? Is *Desperado* any better than *El Mariachi*?

The answer is a muddy yes and no. That is, yes: Columbia has undoubtedly helped Robert Rodriguez by freeing him from having to subject his body to further drug testing in order to mount a movie. And *no*: *Desperado* is not any better than *El Mariachi*. If

anything is a little bit worse...

In the earlier movie, the Mariachi was a soft-spoken musician who dressed in black, carried a guitar and wandered into a dingy bar where he discovered that another man - who also wore black and carried a guitar case, though his was filled with guns - had many murderous enemies. Mistaking the Mariachi for his double, the town thugs set out to get him. After a long chase, they managed to kill his girlfriend and shoot an enormous hole in the Mariachi's hand. He'd lost his love and his ability to play the guitar, and there his tale seemed sadly to end.

Desperado, though, picks up where the last film left off, with the Mariachi on the warpath. Intent on avenging the murder of his beloved, he arrives in town in search of Bencho (Joaquim de Almeida), the drug lord he holds responsible.

Since we last saw him, several things have changed about the Mariachi. First of all, his baby face and boyish body have magically transformed into the sculpted countenance and beefcake frame of Antonio Banderas. Secondly, the big black case he carries, which used to hold nothing more menacing than a guitar, has been emptied out and filled with weapons - lots and lots of weapons. Many scenes in *Desperado* feature the Mariachi wielding a gun in each hand.

The switch to Antonio Banderas is just fine. With his long, flowing hair and Rudolph Valentino-esque poise, the actor has a larger-than-life sultriness that reinforces Rodriguez's own hyperbolic approach. In one typical gun battle near the start of the film, the Mariachi leaps and slides like a matador across a wooden bar as he and his opponents expend an absurd, cartoon quantity of ammo-

tion. In the context of this extremely stylized shoot-out, the shower of bullets takes on an almost pretty sound, like hail falling or windchimes in a hurricane.

But ultimately there's a problem with the double-barreled contents of the Mariachi's guitar case. In the earlier movie, gentle irony made the bloodshed more palatable: the simple musician was dragged into a life of violent crime because of a mix-up. We felt throughout the comedy of errors that he'd much rather be playing his instrument than running for his life.

Here the motivation to kill is much more ordinary. The Mariachi wants revenge and will murder whomever he must in order to reach his target. At one point, he tells his voluptuous new squeeze (Salma Hayek) that it's easier to shoot a gun than it is to play a guitar, and we can't help but nod -

and wonder why this doesn't inspire him to take up the musical challenge. *El Mariachi* had an innocence and goodness of heart that are missing from *Desperado*. Bigger budget in hand, Rodriguez seems more interested in the innovative variations he can work on the extension of a compelling narrative.

Which is not to say that he has completely sold out. It's rare to find a Hollywood director who edits his films, let alone one who operates his own camera. Rodriguez performs all of these tasks, as well as writing and producing.

In other words, *Desperado* is, despite the high-profile source of its funding, still very much a "Robert Rodriguez film." Given the current state of corporate movie-making, the independent spirit of the film is in itself a substantial achievement.

UK actors jazz it up with style

THEATER REVIEW
NAQMI DOUDAI

CHASING THE MOMENT
By Jack Shepherd. Direction, James Brack. The One Tree Theater Company (UK). Hebrew title: *L'Opéra et Hangea*. At the Wax Auditorium, Haifa.

Six witty and highly versatile English actors present a challenging and original polemic on the place of jazz in today's life in London with vivacity and compelling sincerity.

It starts off as slack cross talk frantically peppered with expletives by the white and black members of the band as they warm up for an evening recital. Slowly, the drama gathers a deeper seriousness climaxing in the actual jam session, performed during the intermission.

It is in the second half that the text reaches intellectual heights. Here it broaches burning jazz issues like the generation gap between players and the cultural gulf between black and white exponents of jazz, even more unbridgeable when it comes to love.

Jim Bywater is deeply moving as the aging, chronically-stooped Slap Bass with the nihilistic ethic. Julie Hewlett, in an exquisite performance, plays the disillusioned black lover of an uptight white guitarist. As the latter, Paul Stacey provides a musical treat.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

By E.B. Priestley. Hebrew: *Ben Bar-Shavit*. Direction: Shmuel Vilozny. Set: Buki Schwartz. Costumes: Iris Raitinsky. Music: Etti Shoshani. Lighting: Felice Rosa Bar-Lev. Hebrew title: *Hamefetsah Ba*. At the Habimah National Theatre.

The Inspector - Shlomo Bar-Shavit
Arthur - Yehuda Efron
Sybil - Diana Doron
Sheila - Ranna Messinger

In no sense has Priestley's 1945 "police" piece become dated. A smash hit of the '40s, its titillating theme still rivets.

It involves the various members of a wealthy industrialist's family who, unbeknown to each other, are responsible for the victimization of a former employee.

Vilozny, firmly in control in this, his fourth production, proves himself as accomplished a director as he is an actor. He has made daring use of Buki Schwartz's surreal clock, a striking ticking symbol of time past and present in an evening of elegant theater.

With actors typecast to "look the part" more than play it, Diana Doron a dressy middle-class matriarch, Shlomo Bar-Shavit an intriguing inspector, Yehuda Efron a plucky plutocrat - he touches off the deepest dimensions of a tricky play.

Who says life begins at 40? For one conductor, it's 65

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

HE'S 60 years old, but Chilean-born conductor Juan Pablo Izquierdo says he'll need another five years to truly blossom.

"Conductors don't begin the best part of their life until age 65," he says with a smile.

After a long absence from the local scene, the Pittsburgh-based Izquierdo is back for a series of concerts with the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Between 1974 and 1986 he was the music director of the Testimonio, a biannual festival of contemporary music.

"I did six festivals, but the initiative died when its founder, Racha Freier, died. It was a pity," he notes.

Izquierdo will lead the ICO in two chamber orchestra versions of compositions originally written for full symphony orchestra. Debussy's *Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*.

The arrangements were supervised by Arnold Schoenberg at the beginning of this century. "Schoenberg had a great idea and these arrangements serve several purposes," Izquierdo says. "First and foremost, he created them for a salon of intellectuals who gathered regularly to hear varied musical programs. Schoenberg's main idea was to bring to the audience the substance of the music without the help of all the orchestral colors."

While the conductor argues that the arrangements are masterful, he notes that they are not

intended to be substitutes for the originals.

"It's more a different version than a pure arrangement," he says.

He elaborates that "it's not only legitimate, but it has always been customary to transfer music from one medium to another."

"Suddenly you are able to reveal many things that don't come out in the original version."

"After all, Bach took his castratos and changed them into orchestral pieces occasionally. Liszt made a version of all the Beethoven symphonies for piano solo. It's all about looking at a work from a different angle."

Izquierdo has always tried to combine performance with academia.

He is currently associated with the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he founded the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic Orchestra.

"We also founded an institute there named after [the] great German conductor Hermann Scherchen, the purpose of which is to fuse musical thought and research with musical practice," he tells. "Performers don't have the time today to research and this is wrong."

Izquierdo conducts about once a year in his native country.

"There is very little support for arts and culture in Chile. We are not as good now as we could have been," he explains. "Our orchestras are in a transition stage, moving from being sup-



Izquierdo founded an institute in Pittsburgh to "fuse musical thought and research with musical practice."

ported by the state to private sponsorships. These are rather hard times for us."

Working within an academic institution and devoting time to creative research and performance enables Izquierdo to avoid the current crisis in the classical music world.

"At this moment, most of the orchestras have to market music as there's no subsidy for this art form. This limits the repertoire substantially and also the way the musicians play," Izquierdo says. "The musicians are not playing in a creative way any longer. They cannot when they play the same works over and over. Nothing ignites them any longer."

Izquierdo leads the ICO tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum.

A Mideastern comedy of terrors

HELEN KAYE

Dromio of Syracuse compares the dubious charms of fat Bess the cook to the Galilee mountains. "And what of the Golan?" asks his master.

"That we'll leave to the people," Dromio answers smartly and the audience roars with laughter and applause.

The same scene dealt with the local political situation in its own time and so do we," says *A Comedy of Errors* director Omri Nitzan, adding that translator Dan Almagor came up with most of the jokes.

The time in question was 1592 or thereabouts when *A Comedy of Errors* was the first comedy of Shakespeare's to be produced. This newest local production - the first was at Habimah in 1964 - is as hip as a cellular phone and as topical as the peace process, and it opened at the Cameri Theater last week.

Ever since he was a *wunderkind* director in the early '70s, Nitzan has over deviated from his belief that theater needs to be "here and now, to reach for and grab its audience as directly as possible."

This *Comedy* is set in Ruth Dar's evocative setting of an unnamed Middle Eastern city, but it doesn't take much imagination to identify it as war-torn Beirut in the '80s, even though the characters refer to it as Ephesus.

War between the cities of Ephesus and Syracuse is the backdrop to this comedy which starts, Nitzan points out, "very unfunny with a death sentence against an old man, a family torn apart and everything tottering, unsafe."

The old man is Egeon of Syracuse (Yossi Yadin) who wins the Duke's (Eli Danker's) pity and a 24-hour reprieve when he recounts the harrowing tale of how he lost his twin sons (Ohad Shabar and Natan Dattner), their twin servants (Ya'akov Cohen and Rami Baruch) and his wife (Zaharita Harifa 'I).

That little thread of compassion, Nitzan observes, runs parallel to all the violence (comic or otherwise) found through the play and he has unobtrusively borrowed a few lines from *Henry IV* and *Coriolanus* about peace between peoples and states, to drive home "the stupidities of conflict and the possibilities of peace."

"Of course this city could be Sarajevo, or Bosnia or anywhere that people are fighting each other, but *Comedy's* structure has a Mediterranean pattern to it and we live in the Middle East."

But whether Beirut or not, Nitzan hasn't changed a word of the plot. This *Comedy* is still the story of what happens when those same two sets of identical twins are loose in Ephesus, each unbeknownst to the other, and with predictably hilarious results.

The whole idea of setting *Comedy* in the Middle East came to Nitzan when he was with the Cameri at the Brooklyn Academy of Music last year.

He's been carrying the play around with him "for 15 years, reading and re-reading it and knowing that one day, I never quite knew how, I'd do it."

That day "I read the Duke's first lines about cities in conflict and the concept was born. It

works because *Comedy* is basically a realistic comedy."

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Telephone 02-315666 Fax 02-389577 CIRCULATION - 02-315610 ADVERTISING - 02-315608, 02-315677-80
Fax 02-389408 TEL AVIV: 3 Rabin Highway, P.O. Box 26398 (61283) Telephone 03-6949333 Fax 03-6949777. H.A.F.A.: 20 Nardana,
Radar Haacoval, Telephone 04-623166. Published daily, except on Saturdays, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by
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Syria's aims

In a closed forum on Saturday, Prime Minister Shimon Peres made a statement which has gone almost completely unnoticed. "We have two lakes," he said, "one is dead [the Dead Sea], and if we relinquish the other one [the Kinneret] it will be suicide." To reinforce this, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said in an interview on Army Radio, "We don't want to see Syrian feet in the Kinneret."

The first reaction to such statements is a cold fear that what is today pronounced suicidal may be deemed a sane and reasonable "price of peace" tomorrow. As Norman Podhoretz recently wrote about the late Yitzhak Rabin's statement on the indivisibility of Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital: "Instead of bucking me up, these words put a chill in my blood. They were so reminiscent in their firmness and confidence of other declarations he had made in the past that I could not help seeing in them the last of the 'red lines' he would eventually cross, all the while pretending (perhaps even to himself) that he was doing no such thing."

In fact, if Peres's logic is followed to the hilt, there is much less reason to adhere to the Kinneret "red line" than to the outcrop of an undivided Jerusalem. The matter of Israel's capital is a national-emotional issue, a religious and cultural imperative dictated by the Jews of the world as well as a vast majority of Israelis.

But in the "New Middle East," in that new regional order envisioned by Peres as the very foundation for the negotiations with Syria, it is difficult to see why Israel cannot divide the Kinneret with its peace partners the way Lake Ontario is divided between the US and Canada.

In fact, it seems downright miserly to keep the whole Kinneret under Israeli control in a region about to be transformed, according to Peres, into a copy of the European Union and NATO, where transportation and energy infrastructures are shared, the sources of the River Jordan are controlled by a benign Damascus, the Golan is a joint Syrian-Israeli commercial enterprise, the borders between countries are so open that they are hardly noticeable, and the armies of the peace partners are united in defense against the radicals and fundamentalists of Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Libya.

That Peres has already agreed to retreat to the international border, a few meters from the Kinneret, is hardly a secret. But the Syrians insist on a retreat to the June 4, 1967, lines, which would bring them to the water line. And if anything still makes Peres hesitate about letting the Syrians have those few meters, it is his fear that the Israeli public will balk at putting Israel's main water resource at the mercy of Damascus.

Even more inhibiting may be the military's

opposition to a retreat from the Golan without proper security measures. The IDF insists that if Israel forfeits the Golan, Syrian forces must be prevented from being anywhere near the Israeli border. As Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak has put it, "There is a difference between fighting a war which starts at Kuneitra [on the Golan border] and one which begins in the Hula [near the Kinneret]."

Peres himself seems less concerned about a military threat. He seems to believe in the "Assad-is-a-man-of-his-word" myth, even though the only agreement Assad has kept is the cease-fire on the Golan, where the Israeli artillery's proximity to Damascus has done wonders for his honesty.

But Assad has consistently broken major agreements with others: he reneged on his word to then-secretary of state George Shultz and the Saudis to abide by the Israel-Lebanon peace treaty of 1983. He has broken his commitment to the Arab League to withdraw from Lebanon, violated agreements with Turkey (16 of them, according to Turkish diplomats) to deprive Kurdish rebels of Syrian bases, and ignored understandings reached with Israel after Operation Accountability.

If there is a change in Assad's attitude it has little to do with flexibility and concessions. His demands today are exactly what they were in Madrid four years ago. Nor is there a change in his aim to negotiate with the US rather than Israel. Differences in the general atmosphere of the talks are due to his realization that Peres, unlike Rabin, has been willing to lobby in Washington for American intervention in the talks and for generous American concessions to Syria. Members of the House International Relations Committee and the Republican leadership which Peres has advocated American aid to Syria once it signs a treaty with Israel.

Assad knows that Israel has in effect relinquished the Golan, and that it will probably be willing to take even steps defined today as "suicidal" to get a peace treaty. But he wants far more: an American commitment to provide him with money, trade, investments, the removal of Syria from the terror-sponsoring list, recognition of Syria's occupation of Lebanon and other costly benefits. For now, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, constrained by domestic reservations about Assad, cannot deliver all this. Assad seems to hope that if he plays his cards right, Peres will make a special effort to remove these constraints.

From Syria's viewpoint, such a strategy makes sense. But to construe its aims as a genuine Syrian desire for reconciliation and peace with Israel takes a gigantic leap of faith.

LEG 96



Dictatorship of peace

TALKING to a taxi driver in Tel Aviv recently, I had a novel experience.

With convincing spontaneity and starting ease, the driver first delivered a collection of well-known peace clichés of the familiar "give peace a chance" kind. But then, hearing my opposing opinion, he made a sudden turnaround. And what the man then said against the government and its policies was so violent as to leave me far behind, in the camp of the "moderates."

The only explanation of his initial pater? Fear. I tried the gambit again in Jerusalem. This time, all the driver would say was, "I have a wife and kids. I don't want to know anything. I just want to make a living."

The head of a polling firm told me that while in the past Israelis were very open in their answers - almost too talkative - they now hesitate to speak out on political issues. When polled, some appear to give false answers. The results are probably skewed, he said. The much-publicized recent success of the Labor Party in registering 350,000 members, combined with reports of massive pressure on employees in large firms, belongs to the same pattern.

The late Moshe Sharett, a former prime minister and foreign minister, and himself a member of the Labor party, had a name for this kind of recruitment: "A regime of fear and reckoning." The Jewish fugitives from the Gomulka regime in Poland who reached this country in the 1960s were mostly Communist party hacks, government officials, and even agents of the local KGB. Their first question on arrival was, "Which is the ruling party?" They then duly registered.

Is this fear, which brings us nearer - though not in the way we once hoped - to our new Palestinian allies, supported by reality? It is, definitely. A few days ago a number of

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

Kiryat Arba residents, respected citizens all, were summoned to the police. They weren't accused of anything, just asked about their opinions. They were then "warned," and sent home.

THE OSLO agreements abolished military rule over Arabs in Judea-Samaria-Gaza.

From now on, only the Jews in these areas are subject to the military legislation defined as a "beligerent occupation" of the popu-

Yes, we've been in this movie before, and we know: Such films never have a happy ending

lation of the former enemy

A citizen is served with an "administrative order," putting him in detention for months, or confining him to a restricted area, sometimes to the four walls of his home. The order is signed by the commanding general, and bears no explanation. Nor will any reason for the order be given in the future. Even if the victim turns to an appeals committee, and subsequently to the High Court, the "evidence" will be shown only to the tribunal, in secrecy. But the judge will have no means, no tools whatsoever, for examining or ascertaining the authenticity and veracity of this secret information, scribbled on a piece of paper by an unknown agent. It may be no more than a false denunciation by a personal enemy. It may be a mistake. More often than not, these se-

cret papers don't even allege that the suspect committed any overt act. They merely register that the man said something. (In what intonation? In reply to what question? Under which circumstances?) And yet this is enough to deprive a man of his freedom.

The French Revolution broke out, inter alia, because of the infamous *Lettres de Cachet* issued by the king, containing exile or detention orders, without need for any proof.

To round off the syndrome, let us replay on the screens of our memory that unforgettable interview on television's Channel 2. A huge, round arena, snow-white, totally empty, except for two figures: the interviewer, mandarin-like, self-satisfied, leaning back luxuriously; and the prime minister.

The arena is illuminated by glaring floodlights. In the background bright stars shimmer. The tableau is staged as if it were in heaven.

Delicate questions, put by the interviewer in a gentle, caressing voice, with awe and reverence, afford the prime minister an opportunity to speak to the multitudes. And, occupying almost an entire broadcasting evening, he delivers, sermonizing with round, ceremonious hand movements in the style of *Pontifex Maximus*, his words sounding like a gospel of salvation rather than a political message.

The prime minister's rhetoric radiates an aura of conciliation, generosity and magnanimity - the kind one expects only from personalities in total command of the arena. Nor is this just any arena. It is a lofty plane, high up on the Olympus of Peace. And one cannot escape the feeling of being in the exalted, reassuring presence of the Czar of Peace.

We have been in this movie before, more than once in this miserable century. And we know: Such films never have a happy ending.

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, is a resident of Kiryat Arba.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE CHIEF RABBINATE

Sir, - On November 6, the chief rabbi of Israel issued a statement addressed to the rabbis in the Diaspora, which states amongst others: "The Chief Rabbinate Council declares that marginal groups have no authority to use Jewish law (Halacha) as a pretense to support their views, and that the sole authority to speak in the name of Jewish law is the Chief Rabbinate Council and the great Torah scholars recognized by the Council."

This raises certain questions: a) Where were the Rabbinate Council and both chief rabbis when prime minister Rabin was vilified as a traitor, depicted in a keffiyeh, and called a liar? Where was the voice of the Rabbinate Council when *shar nahan* was being spread in Jerusalem, the City of Peace?

b) Who made the Chief Rabbinate Council the "sole authority," the voice of Halacha for the people, if the ability to speak out when an injustice is being perpetrated is not exercised?

c) Prior to the passing of the former chief rabbi of Israel, Shlomo Goren, he, too, displayed an attitude which was unfitting for a former

chief rabbi of Israel and former IDF chief rabbi when he decreed a *psak halacha* that if a commander gave orders for soldiers to remove settlers from Judea and Samaria, those orders were to be disobeyed. What did the Chief Rabbinate do to confront this attack against the state and the people of Israel? A few months ago, seven rabbis living in Israel gave the same *psak* as Rabbi Goren did. Were those rabbis reprimanded for instigating a political threat to Jewish life and the safety of the state?

From 1972 to 1975, I was fortunate enough to serve in the IDF. During that period and later on during periods of reserve duty, I never sensed a hatred among observant and non-observant soldiers. I believe today the situation is no longer the same, and it is the responsibility and duty of the Chief Rabbinate Council and the chief rabbis of Israel to deter and quieten those individuals and/or political movements that perpetuate this mistrust and hatred. They have not the right to send out letters claiming to be "holier than thou" after murder was being committed.

RABBI ARTHUR ZUCKERMAN
Solana Beach, California.

MURDER IS MURDER

Sir, - I heard the Carmela Bubbut festival on the radio. Maybe she herself did not want any of this fuss about her. Maybe she didn't want the glowing support of politicians or battered wives. I suspect that her killing of her husband (no matter what the circumstances) will haunt her all her life, as it should. No matter the "self-defense" or other extenuating circumstances, murder still remains murder. And whether the victim was a hero or an anti-hero is not particularly relevant.

There is another murderer very much on our minds these days: Yigal Amir. Maybe he imagined he was saving the life of our whole country. Maybe he even imagined he would get the hero's welcome that Carmela Bubbut got on her release. Instead, to his amazement, the

whole world came down on his head.

I am not suggesting that Mrs. Bubbut should stay in jail for the rest of her life, or that Yigal Amir should be pardoned next week. But another poor misguided person can creep out of the woodwork now. Having misunderstood all the loving words about Carmela Bubbut, he can turn into the next assassin. Murder is murder. By trivializing it or legitimizing it, we are setting ourselves up for the next catastrophe.

So let us end the moral ambiguity of the issue. To all the assassins, battered wives, bus bombers, etc., the answer to the question: "Is murder permissible?" is out "no, but..." it is "no."

THELMA JACOBSON
Petah Tikva.

POLITICAL FIGURE

Sir, - As an admirer of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and of his accomplishments throughout his years in service to both Israel and the Jewish people, I feel that the affair involving his widow Leah should be addressed.

Like many others, I feel that Mrs. Rabin has broken the consensus surrounding her husband's memory by voicing unnecessary and ultimately statements that have clearly been of a political nature. Mrs. Rabin should remember that her role as "first lady" was not independent of her late husband's title of prime minister. By stating her political views, she has stripped herself of that title and role thus becoming another political figure, and therefore should not receive government (public) funds for any of her actions.

I am sorry that Mrs. Rabin did not learn the ways of Jacqueline Kennedy who to the day of her passing was respected and looked up to as America's first lady.

ARI LICHT
Netanya.

KEEP WRITING

Sir, - I am not sure that I thanked D'vora Ben Shaul sufficiently on the phone for going to such great lengths to answer my question about my cat. I suspect that I was more than a bit flabbergasted that she would go to so much trouble, but I shouldn't have been. It seems she does a lot of painstaking research to write her marvelous columns.

I must confess that when I receive a newspaper I head first for Ben Shaul's column. If there is none, it puts a damper on my day. I even prefer a column on flora, although it interests me less than fauna, than no column at all. Thanks again.

MITZI ANTLICK
Beersheba.

BETTER TITLE

Sir, - "Cry the Beloved Country" would have been a more sensitive title for the penetrating article by Jonathan Blass (December 29) which you called "Real estate vs. human life."

BLOSSOM RICHMAN
Jerusalem.

Back to Green Line Israel

THERE are reports of growing numbers of Jewish settlers in Judea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights who are willing to move back within the confines of the Green Line, if appropriately compensated. It isn't clear how many are involved, but it isn't a trickle, as the hard core of ideological settlers would have us believe.

Several MKs from the coalition parties, especially Meretz, have called upon the government to start dealing with the legalities of the issue, and to allocate funds. But so far, the government has refused even to talk about compensation, even though it is clear that once there is an agreement with Syria and a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, many Israelis will have to be helped to relocate.

While one can sympathize with Israelis who have already decided to move - whether from security concerns, because of the difficulty of living normally under conditions of uncertainty, or because they do not wish to stand in the way of peace - the government's position is essentially correct.

It has never stated that if and when the final withdrawal takes place it will not compensate those who are forced to move, and it is clear that the precedent of the settlers from Yamit and other Sinai settlements will not be denied. At this stage, however, nobody - certainly not the government - knows whether agreements with Syria and the Palestinians will ac-

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

tually be signed, since nobody knows what the results of the next Israeli elections will be.

And even if it was known for certain that the current coalition would remain in power, nobody knows where the new borders will be, and which Jewish settlements will remain within the confines of the State of Israel.

It would thus be quite irresponsible of the government to start

The government hasn't even begun talking about compensation for settlers - and it's right

paying out compensation before it is known for certain that it needs to be paid.

THERE is a debate going on in the coalition over the whole question of paying settlers compensation.

Several "defenders" of the government have claimed that a decision to start compensating settlers who agree to move out of the territories immediately would encourage opportunists to move out there in the hope of a quick profit. But this really isn't a serious objection. Any such opportunists have probably already made the move.

Labor's Young Turks

YOSEF GOELL

DESPITE the reasonable expectation that the peace process will dominate the forthcoming elections it should not be forgotten that there will also be a contest between two flesh-and-blood candidates who will overshadow their respective parties in the voters' minds.

Labor's Shimon Peres, who will be going on 73, will be running against the Likud's Binayamin Netanyahu, who is almost a quarter-century younger. Interestingly, though Israel has for some time been voraciously copying American life-styles and political fads, the admission of real or seeming youth in a political candidate has not been one of them. Yet Peres apparently seems to fear that his age may, in fact, be a handicap.

Peres's superior performance during the first national unity government did not prevent the electorate from preferring Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud over Peres and Labor in the 1988 elections, dealing Peres his fourth defeat in as many tries. By 1992, demoralized Laborites were no longer ready to chance it with Peres at the helm, and narrowly chose Yitzhak Rabin in his stead.

Peres knows this political history better than anyone. According to reports, he is determined not to take any chances in his final time at bat and is seeking to offset the supposed age handicap by surrounding himself with a cluster of attractive younger candidates. The names mentioned are Interior Minister Haim Ramon, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, and the minister closest to Peres, Yossi Beilin.

One of the main problems with advancing this group is that it means intentionally skipping over the middle generation of Labor ministers as possible successors to the party leadership. This is exactly what Peres's mentor, David Ben-Gurion, tried to do in the 1960's with the "youthful" men like Moshe Arens and Peres himself to the veteran Mafai leadership who saw themselves as Ben-Gurion's legitimate successors.

The result was a split in Mafai, a sad end to Ben-Gurion's leadership, and a distancing of Peres and the other impatient Young Turks from the top leadership for close to two decades.

The possibility of a reprise of such a generational war should not be written off - particularly since Peres does not command the respect that Ben-Gurion did in the party in his time.

But a much more serious problem with the younger "star cluster" is that their leadership ability is far from proven. None of them has so far racked up a record that would in the least back up the assertion that they are the obvious next leaders of Labor.

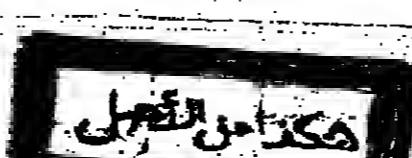
Ramon did win a remarkable victory when he wrested control of the Histadrut from the hands of Labor's Old Guard after 70 years. He then proceeded to dismantle the labor federation, but abandoned ship for greener pastures before giving any indication of what he planned to build to replace the wreckage he had wrought.

Burg has similarly been busy dismantling the Jewish Agency which he heads. But he, like Ramon, has announced his readiness to abandon the agency so as not to miss the chance of starting in Peres's cluster.

Former IDF chief of staff Ehud Barak was parachuted to the top of the political pile because prime minister Yitzhak Rabin admired his military expertise and wanted him to balance out the preponderance of party doves in his cabinet. So far he has not succeeded in making any impact on the political scene during his short tenure as interior minister and foreign minister.

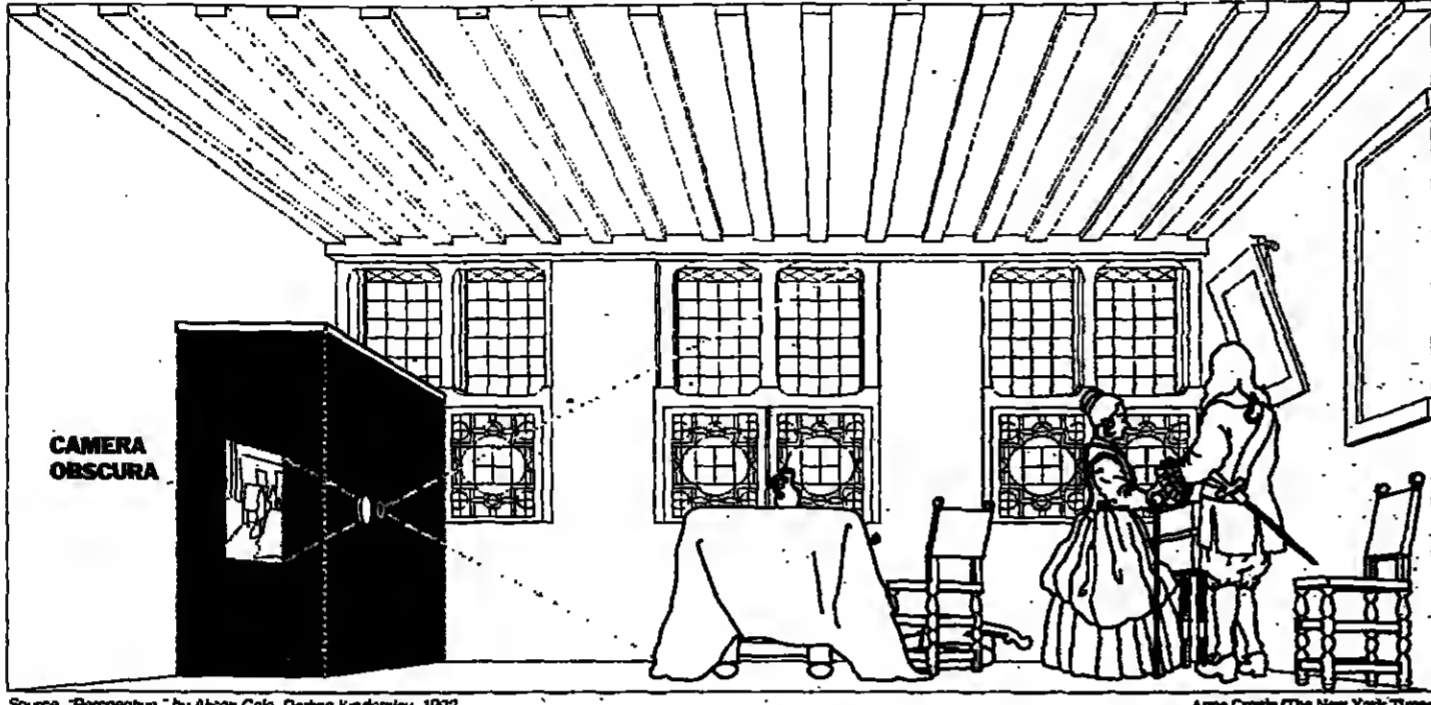
I would rate Yossi Beilin the most outstanding minister in an otherwise lackluster government, but this does not necessarily mean that he will prove popular with the voters. The fact that he failed to win a top slot in Labor's 1992 primaries is a sad example of one of the most serious flaws in the process by which democracies choose their top leaders: The disturbing discrepancy between a politician's ability to be elected - either by his fellow politicians or by a majority of the electorate - and his capacity for evincing leadership in the pursuit of crucial political goals.

The writer comments on current affairs.



Ideas & Trends

Of Pinpoints and Cameras: The Science of Vermeer's Art



Source: "Perspective," by Albin Cole Darling, *Kundersey*, 1932

Part of the magic in Vermeer's paintings was created with the help of science. Two optical methods may have been used, for instance, in "A Lady at the Virginal With a Gentleman (The Music Lesson)."

CAMERA OBSCURA A camera obscura, which literally means "dark chamber," was a closed box or darkened room with a small hole drilled through the wall facing the subject. It works much like the pinhole-viewing system that is used to view a solar eclipse. Light coming from the brightly lit scene enters the hole and is projected at the back end of the chamber upside down. (A lens placed between the pinhole and the back projection will make the image appear right side up.) The scene can then be traced. The projected image is slightly darker around the edges, and, if a lens is used, the straight edges of the image may be bowed.

The camera obscura was developed in the 17th century, but it would take another 200 years before a treated paper was invented that could chemically record the camera obscura's view and give the world photography.

RADIATING LINES The science of perspective, known to the Romans and rediscovered during the Renaissance, involved plotting objects along lines that converge at a place on the horizon called the vanishing point. The characteristics of perspective were known to artists in Vermeer's day. And there was a tradition of using a single vanishing point for extra emphasis in a composition, as when Leonardo DaVinci placed Christ's right eye at that very point in "The Last Supper."

There is a tiny hole in Vermeer's painting in the left elbow of the woman playing the virginal. Vermeer may have stuck a tack into the canvas and then used string pulled taut from the tack to make the perfectly straight lines that define the rectangular objects in the room. By having these lines converge at a point in space directly behind the elbow, Vermeer emphasized the only thing moving in the room — the player's arms.

Other vanishing points placed along these lines in a more sophisticated form of perspective enabled Vermeer to accurately mark the angles in the pattern of the marble floor.



The Royal Collection, © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

"A Lady at the Virginal With a Gentleman (The Music Lesson)," c. 1662-1664.



RADIATING LINES

Horizon line

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

There is an extraordinary hush in the packed rooms of the National Gallery of Art where the first Vermeer exhibition in history has been holding its own against Government shutdowns and blizzards. To look at these 21 paintings of the 17th century Dutch artist, even in the midst of a crowd, is to be drawn into a private realm. A woman in blue is silently absorbed in reading a letter by the window. Another woman, her head reverentially draped in white cloth, delicately holds a miniature balance by the tip of her fingers and is poised in reflection. A third gazes into a mirror, frozen in dreamy repose, as she admires her pearl necklace. A viewer is almost embarrassed, as if intruding on some intimacy, disrupting a slender instant of time captured by an act of painterly photography.

Vermeer's uncanny creation of a domestic reality has inspired numerous attempts to explain his methods, which is one reason why an entire room of the Vermeer exhibition is devoted to the scientific principles he may have applied. In Vermeer's day, painters, like scientists, were obsessed with perspective, optics and the nature of perception. And the ambition of most painters was to mirror nature precisely, recreating it down to the most exquisite detail. Indeed, any instrument or technique that furthered that goal was important. So Vermeer's images have inspired much speculation and controversy over how much science was intertwined with the art.

The Obscure Literalists

During the last 30 years, some scholars have argued that Vermeer's images have a photographic immediacy because they are literally photographic, because they were painted with the assistance of a "camera obscura" — an instrument that creates a two-dimensional projection of three-dimensional space as light passes through a small hole in the wall of a darkened box.

The obscure literalists have argued that a camera obscura was actually used in the construction of Ver-

meer's paintings. The instrument, after all, was written about during Vermeer's lifetime as a suitable guide for "young artists." Constantijn Huygens, upon seeing an image created by a camera obscura in 1622 wrote, "All painting is dead by comparison, for this is life itself, or something more elevated, if one could articulate it."

One scholar has suggested that 27 of Vermeer's pictures were literal transcriptions of camera obscura images. The exhibition catalogue (Yale University Press, 1995) points out that Vermeer's stunning view of Delft may have been made with the help of a camera obscura located in a house that appears on 17th-century maps. And other scholars have created models of Vermeer's studio in order to identify where he might have placed the instrument.

The idea that Vermeer was literally transcribing what he saw through a camera obscura, though, is vaguely disturbing to a modern sensibility. It seems to turn Vermeer into a sort of a technician, a set designer who traced images. Today we prefer to emphasize an artist's style and inventiveness rather than precise imitation.

Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., a curator of the exhibition, believes that scholars have played up Vermeer's use of the camera obscura too much. "Vermeer employed the camera obscura selectively," reads one annotation at the exhibition, "as an artistic tool, adopting only the optical effects that served his esthetic purpose."

In the painting "The Girl with the Red Hat," for instance, Vermeer rendered some of the effects of a camera obscura image — diffused spots of light, intensified colors, sharp contrasts and soft detail in the out-of-focus front of the picture. But that does not mean he reproduced what he saw with a camera obscura.

In an interview Mr. Wheelock stressed that Vermeer used the camera obscura primarily for "an exploitation of effect." Walter Liedtke, a curator of European painting at the Metropolitan Museum, agrees. "It is highly unlikely," he said, "that Vermeer arranged scenes like the ones we see in the paintings."

Vermeer, in other words, was not just a photographer working without film. "A Lady at the Virginal with a Gentleman (The Music Lesson)," for example, shows a woman playing an instrument for a man. Although her head seems bent over the keyboard, her reflection

in a mirror shows her looking toward the man at her side — a reflection of her internal life rather than a reflection obeying the laws of optics. The Delft skyline, according to maps of the period, has also been reorganized for Vermeer's painterly purposes. The fact that Vermeer's paintings have a kind of photographic aura is a testimony to his artistry, not to his competent use of a camera obscura.

Another recent discovery may further diminish the importance of the camera obscura. Jorgen Wadum, the curator of the Mauritshuis in the Hague, has discovered pin holes in 15 of Vermeer's paintings. Some of them can be seen; others are visible only using X-ray photography. Why pin holes? Strings were stretched from pins to guide the artist in creating precise lines of perspective. The pin was located at the vanishing point — the point at which all lines of depth seem to meet.

This technique was often used by painters of Vermeer's day. Yet Vermeer's application of it supports the idea that he was not so much a technician rendering

The artist's reflections of inner life did not always obey the laws of physics.

the images he saw, but an artist constructing images from things he saw and did not see. The vanishing points, Mr. Wadum notes in the catalogue, are intimately related to the paintings' meanings. The elbow of the woman playing the virginal is not only the point at which the perspective lines meet, it is the point from which her arms move, creating unheard sounds that are linked to her mirrored gaze. It is eerie to see the mark of the pin in the painting's surface at the tip of the woman's elbow, the trace of the artisan at work.

Mr. Wadum suggests that this technique makes the camera obscura seem much less central. Vermeer's craftsmanship didn't require it. In fact, the presence of a camera obscura, he says, would have challenged

Vermeer not to imitate its image but to transcend it, turning nature into art: "Wouldn't a painter react to this and make painting into something even more painterly in contrast? The way the impressionists did when they were faced the invention of photography?"

This is similar to the view of Svetlana Alpers as well, a historian of 17th-century Dutch art. "The relationship between science and art is a deep, deep one in the Western tradition," she said. Vermeer's use of pins and cameras was actually part of his "strong sense of the artifice of seeing." The act of seeing becomes an act of construction, making sense out of the world.

Ordering Disorder

This may be the significance of Vermeer's geographer who bends over a map with a compass in hand. Some believe him to be Vermeer's contemporary, Anton van Leeuwenhoek, the Dutch naturalist and pioneer microscopist who also lived in Delft. Behind this figure is an orderly world of Euclidean objects — rectangles, a globe, shadows projected by sturdy furniture — and before him, a rumpled rug, curled maps, one of which has fallen to the floor. What he is doing is akin to what Vermeer was doing — creating order out of disorder. It is no accident that maps appear again and again in Vermeer's paintings. They are, like his paintings, carefully constructed images of the world, not precise likenesses.

But for all his technical know-how, Vermeer's focus was not on what is seen, not on the outer world and the act of ordering it, but on the act of seeing itself and the suggestion of an intricate inner world. At least this is the aspect of the paintings that speak to a contemporary viewer, to one used to seeing painting as a disclosure of the subjective rather than as a reflection of the objective. Eyes dreamily stare at some indefinite point; a mirror violates natural law, revealing a woman's mental reflections. Vermeer's rigorous attention is often not on a ready-made reality, but on the interior mental life of those solitary figures, privately engaged in a craft or reflective thought, visited by soft window light or the sounds of the virginal. Vermeer's greatest use of optics may have been to show a world beyond the science's reach.



National Gallery of Art
"The Girl with the Red Hat," c. 1665.



Royal Cabinet of Paintings Mauritshuis, The Hague
"View of Delft," c. 1660-1661.



National Gallery of Art
"Woman Holding a Balance," c. 1664.



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
"Woman in Blue Reading a Letter," c. 1663-1664.

مركز منقول

Ideas & Trends

Blame Global Warming for the Blizzard

By WILLIAM K. STEVENS

It seems a paradox at first glance: How could a record snowstorm have covered much of the northeastern United States last week when the climate of the earth is warming?

Just four days after scientists announced on Jan. 3 that the average surface temperature of the globe had crept to a recorded high of nearly 60 degrees in 1995, the Blizzard of 1996 dropped more than 20 inches of snow on Central Park, the third deepest snowfall ever measured there. More than two feet fell on other parts of the Northeast corridor.

But not only are blizzards and global warming compatible, some experts cite evidence suggesting that climatic changes associated with global warming are actually creating more severe snowstorms.

The apparent planetary warming is unlikely to nullify the seasons, including winter, although some climatologists say severe cold spells should eventually become less frequent if the warming continues as predicted.

Frigid masses of Arctic air still rule the polar winter, and a southward bulge of this polar chill was a crucial element in producing the blizzard. Another such bulge has been responsible for the bitter weather frustrating American troops in Bosnia. Seasonal movements of air like these easily overwhelm the relatively small amount of global warming observed so far.

Current Events

Moreover, other parts of the globe have been unusually warm despite the cold start to winter here and in Central Europe.

While the blizzard paralyzed New York, Southern California enjoyed record warmth. The summertime temperature in Argentina at a latitude roughly comparable to that of Washington, D.C., soared to 110 degrees a few days ago.

And even where it has been cold, global warming

may be contributing to heavier snowfalls and greater extremes of precipitation generally.

A warming atmosphere causes more evaporation of water from the ocean, which means more rain, snow or sleet. The conversion of more water from vapor to precipitation also releases more energy into the atmosphere, making storms more powerful. In cases where atmospheric circulation conspires to keep rain away from a given area, as happens from time to time, a warming climate is expected to produce hotter heat waves and more severe droughts.

Extremes of this kind are becoming more frequent, say researchers at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

Last year, the researchers analyzed temperature and precipitation records for the 20th century and found that from 1980 through 1994, the incidence of extreme one-day precipitation, over-all precipitation, above-normal temperatures and drought had risen in many areas of the country.

By comparing this pattern with the pattern of climate change that computer simulations indicate should result from an increase in heat-trapping "greenhouse" gases like carbon dioxide, the analysts concluded that there is a 90 to 95 percent chance that the increase in extremes was caused by the increase in greenhouse gases.

An authoritative group of scientists advising the United Nations recently concluded for the first time that the greenhouse gases — produced by the burning of coal, petroleum and wood — are probably responsible for at least part of the observed warming.

The average surface temperature of the earth has risen by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the last century. The scientists forecast a rise of another 3.6 degrees over the next century if emissions of the gases are not reduced, the most rapid global temperature change in the last 10,000 years, with further warming after 2100.

That may not sound like a lot of warming, but the average global temperature is only 5 to 9 degrees higher now, depending on varying calculations, than it was in the depths of the last ice age.

If the scientists are right, extreme weather will be a hallmark of the changing climate, and in fact may be the most common way in which people experience global warming.

One particularly revealing index of extremity is the amount of precipitation in a 24-hour period. Extreme rainstorms, snowstorms, ice and sleet storms, have become more frequent in the United States, and several locations reported record 24-hour snowfalls last week.

The Blizzard of 1996 does indeed qualify as one type of extreme weather to be expected in a warmer climate.

"It's another statistic that adds to the record" of extreme precipitation, said Thomas R. Karl, the leader of the Asheville research team that is studying the

Paradoxically, an increase in the temperature of the Earth may mean more severe snowstorms and droughts as well as hotter heat waves.

phenomenon. "It's rather interesting. We seem to be getting these storms of the century every couple of years." Mr. Karl has not been known as a doom-sayer on the question of global warming.

As Northeasterners showed last week, people can adapt to extreme weather, but at costs both monetary and human.

The blizzard may have cost the New York region a billion dollars and it caused many deaths. Floods resulting from extreme rains, like the historic ones in the Mississippi basin in 1993, take a toll both in dollars and

disaster. Extreme heat waves like last summer's in Chicago, which Mr. Karl says may have been worsened by global warming, impose extreme and often lethal hardships on the old and weak. Developing countries, many of which have fewer resources to cope with a changing climate, are generally regarded as most vulnerable.

For all the tantalizing signs and signals, it remains uncertain as to whether human activity is changing the climate a little or a lot, and if a lot, how drastic the change will ultimately be.

Long-range climate forecasting is no more precise than short-range weather forecasting, both based on an imperfect understanding of the turbulent atmosphere and on equally imperfect analytical tools like computer simulations of the atmosphere's workings.

Sometimes, the task of predicting the weather a season ahead is made easier.

For instance, forecasters know that the quasi-periodic appearance of El Niño, the vast pool of warm water in the equatorial Pacific, increases the probability of certain atmospheric events. They can predict that when El Niño appears, the northern jet stream, the high-altitude river of air that girdles the northern hemisphere, will shift to a course that blocks any invasions of polar air in the northeastern United States.

That was the case a year ago. Forecasters at the Climate Analysis Center of the National Weather Service at Camp Springs, Md., predicted a mild winter for the Northeast last year. They were right; on Jan. 13, 1995, for instance, the temperature reached 61 degrees in Central Park.

This year, El Niño has disappeared. The Weather Service nonetheless predicted a warm winter again based on previous weather patterns, but that forecast has turned out to be wrong so far. The winter is young enough that the forecast could still be right in the end. If not, it will be testimony to the hazards of trying to gauge the behavior of the atmosphere far in advance.

"It comes with the territory, and we accept that," said Ed O'Lenic, who heads the Climate Analysis Center's forecast operation.

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The World

Shhh! That's a (Not Very) Secret.

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

JERUSALEM
THIS past week, several Hebrew newspapers made a revolutionary announcement: Prime Minister Shimon Peres had nominated Ami Ayalon, a former commander of the Israeli Navy, to be head of the General Security Service, the legendary Israeli secret service better known as Shin Bet.

It was not the selection of Admiral Ayalon that was revolutionary; that had been pretty much expected. It was that several Israeli newspapers identified him by name, bypassing the censor and defying the venerable tradition of referring to the head of the Shin Bet only by his first initial — in this case, "Alet." Those papers that did submit their copy to the censor were compelled to replace his name with "senior defense official."

This may be the first head of the Shin Bet to take his post unable even to pretend he is anonymous. The tradition fits with other Israeli efforts to lend mystique to its practitioners of derring-do — from the Mossad agents who operate in the shadows to the top strategists who have never admitted possessing nuclear weapons. So why are Israelis now putting their Shin Bet chief on the level of an ordinary mortal with a name?

"Everybody already knew the name," said Yaakov Erez, the editor of Maariv, in explaining his newspaper's decision to go with it. Indeed, Admiral Ayalon had been named as a candidate for the post in every report from the time that "Kaf" (or "K" to English-speakers), the current head of Shin Bet, announced his resignation over the service's failure to prevent the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

All Is Not Lost

Still, Admiral Ayalon may yet become "Alet" or "A," and papers may resume obliterating his face from published photographs, as they did with Kaf. There were reports that Mr. Peres was not too happy with the publication of the admiral's name, and the military censor has yet to decide what action to take, if any.

The fact is that Kaf's name, too, was never all that secret, especially after he was attacked by name by right-wing radicals. (Any effort to pretend that Kaf's

identity was secret pretty much evaporated last week, when the Washington Post printed his name — Karmi Gilon — and Israeli newspapers, citing the American newspaper, followed suit.) Nor is it really a secret that Israel has made nuclear weapons at its Dimona reactor in the Negev, though nobody has acknowledged that, or that Shin Bet was behind the recent assassination of Yehya Ayyash, the Palestinian bomb-maker known as "The Engineer."

But secrecy and mystery have been an integral component of the Israeli mystique from the time of the underground guerrilla struggle against the British administration of Palestine. Perhaps it was from those same Britons that the Israelis adopted the use of initials as an alias (remember 007's chief: "M"?), and to that

Anonymity and derring-do go together in Israel. Even when it's known who did it.

they added their own dollop of Middle Eastern intrigue. Last month, Mr. Peres himself stirred up a touch of controversy when he said at a lunch with reporters that Israel would be prepared to give up its nuclear program if there was a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. Mr. Peres went on to deny that he had admitted anything — "We've never said Dimona deals with what you attribute to it," he said coyly — and he also noted that the mystery itself over whether Israel has the bomb is as good a deterrent as having one.

Mr. Peres could allow himself a bit of coyness because he is the Prime Minister, and because he was originally responsible for building the Dimona reactor as deputy defense minister under David Ben-Gurion. But the secrecy around Dimona is still dead serious: Mordechai Vanunu, a technician at the plant who supplied photographs and other information about it for a London Sunday Times article in 1986, is still in isolation in prison.

Perhaps the panache of anonymity helps Israel's secret services — the Shin Bet internally and the

Mossad externally — maintain the superhuman reputation they have acquired for their daring strikes against Arab terrorists anywhere in the world. The assassination of "The Engineer," whose head was blown off by a cellular phone which was detonated from a circling airplane when he answered a call from his father, was the stuff of pure Shin Bet legend. In late October, another long-wanted radical Islamic Arab, Fathi Shiqqi, was gunned down in Malta.

Who, Us? We'll Never Tell

Shin Bet, of course, did not acknowledge either of these hits, but the news in both cases was enthusiastically leaked to all major Hebrew papers in Israel, and the press soon had all details of the operations.

This kind of winking and nodding about truths sometimes best left unspoken reflects, deep down, an extraordinary public trust — an assumption that Israel's officials will effectively and wisely use their anonymity or freedom from having to explain. Yet the secret services have also had their dramatic failures. One was the assassination of a Moroccan waiter in Norway in 1973 who was mistaken for one of the perpetrators of the massacre of Israeli athletes in Munich in 1972. Again last week, Mr. Peres insisted that "Israel will not take responsibility because Israel is not a killing organization," but the Israeli ambassador in Oslo said that "after 23 years, it is time to close the score," and Israel finally agreed to negotiate a financial settlement with the victim's family.

The far greater blow to Shin Bet was letting an armed religious nationalist, Yigal Amir, walk right up to Mr. Rabin after a peace rally on Nov. 4 and fire three fatal shots. Many commentators have viewed the Ayyash hit as an attempt by Shin Bet to recoup its reputation — the Ayyash killing was leaked on the day before Kaf resigned — and the notion of Shin Bet organizing assassinations to bolster its public image only contributed further to puncturing its myth.

So even before the big papers published Admiral Ayalon's name (and Kaf's), most carried commentaries and editorials arguing that the public has a right to know who runs so potent an organization. In the wake of the Rabin assassination, it seems, many Israelis are now willing to trade a bit of mystique for a more accountable domestic intelligence organization.



"Kaf" visiting Yitzhak Rabin's grave in November. (No, that's not his name card. It's a cemetery pass.)

Secret Judges, Secret Trials

In Peru, Un-American Justice

By CALVIN SIMS

LIMA, Peru
WHEN Lori Helene Berenson was convicted of treason in Peru last week and sentenced to life in prison for her association with Marxist terrorists, the reaction in the United States held to an American principle: the conviction should not stand because the New York woman, guilty or innocent, did not receive a fair, open trial.

Ms. Berenson was found guilty by a military judge, who was concealed behind a partition in a trial that was closed to the public. Her lawyers were not allowed to cross-examine witnesses or challenge key evidence.

But among Peruvians, sympathy was harder to come by. In a nation exhausted by its war against terrorists, many said flaws in the judicial process that convicted Ms. Berenson were less important than the evidence of her participation in the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a violent, pro-Cuban group formed in the 1980's.

Prosecutors said Ms. Berenson, 26, who grew

For many, due process is not as urgent as fighting terrorism — especially when the defendant is a New Yorker.

up in Manhattan and studied anthropology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, had played a leadership role in Túpac Amaru, stockpiling weapons and planning attacks, including an assault on the Peruvian Congress that police thwarted by raiding a rebel safehouse where they uncovered blueprints of the Congress and a large stash of weapons.

The State Department said it "deeply regrets" that Ms. Berenson was not tried in an open court with full rights of defense, although American officials have not pressured the Peruvian Government because Ms. Berenson asked them not to make any special effort on her behalf. Representative Joseph Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, said the conviction "calls into question" Peru's "commitment to basic democratic principles and human rights."

But Peruvian human rights and religious groups have fallen silent about Ms. Berenson's conviction, even though in the past they have sharply criticized Peru's judicial system, particularly its "faceless" judges, whose identities are concealed in terrorist trials to protect them from reprisals.

Some Peruvians, like Daniel Rojas, a trash collector, openly celebrated the verdict. "Great!" he said. "That North American got what she deserved. Who cares about the trial?"

Political commentators here said Peruvians have lived so long with a corrupt judiciary that the ideal of a fair trial is a lost concept.

"There are a lot of Peruvians who feel that they should not feel sorry for this gringa when thousands of their relatives and friends have been convicted under the same judicial system for doing far less than Lori Berenson admits to having done," said Mirko Laurer, a political columnist here.

Thousands of Peruvians have been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment under the



Lori Helene Berenson, center, shouts "I love this country!" to reporters in Peru last week.

current judicial system, which was established in 1992 by President Alberto Fujimori in a crackdown on terrorism. In 1994, the faceless military courts had a 97 percent conviction rate, according to Peruvian rights groups.

Mr. Fujimori, who was elected to a second term last year, has waged an aggressive and successful war against the Shining Path and Túpac Amaru groups, which have been weakened with the capture of their top leaders.

Winning the War

Political analysts here said that while many Peruvians are uncomfortable with the judicial system, many are also willing to put up with it because of the sharp decline in terrorism.

More than 35,000 people, most of them civilians killed by soldiers and rebels, have died in the fighting since 1980, when the terrorist groups began their insurgency.

Many Peruvians said they found it difficult to believe that a person with Ms. Berenson's education and privilege did not know that Túpac Amaru was a violent group, especially since the police recovered a large stash of weapons at a safehouse where Ms. Berenson lived.

Indeed, many Peruvians said that while they at first sympathized with Ms. Berenson, they changed their minds after they saw her angrily screaming to reporters at a news conference last week that Túpac Amaru was not violent. "Did you see her eyes?" said José Miranda, a waiter. "She looked pretty scary to me."

Mr. Laurer, the political analyst, said the Berenson case should serve as a "wake-up call" for the United States. "This is an American tragedy and not a Peruvian tragedy," he said. "If the United States does not put pressure on the Peruvian government to change its judicial practices, more of its citizens are likely to be tried in these military courts."

After the Peace, War on Memory

Continued from page 1

of what they did. British troops in the northwestern Bosnian town of Ljublija, along with residents who live near a mine where thousands of victims are believed to be buried, say the Serbs are exhuming bodies from mass graves, mangling the corpses in iron ore graters and dousing them with chemicals before burying them under tons of debris in mining pits.

'Not Our Job'

But the NATO-led soldiers in Bosnia have taken no part to date in trying to lay bare the truth; instead they are wardens who pace a confrontation line in huge armored vehicles, saying their chief mission is to keep the three warring factions from killing each other. After 12 months, they say, they will go home.

While they are here under the Dayton accord, the Western countries who sent them will leave it to United Nations officials whether to insist on the right to unearth evidence of atrocities, document what took place or arrest indicted war criminals.

British soldiers, for example, have set up a regional headquarters in Ljublija, just a mile from the mine that has become perhaps the largest mass grave in Serb-held Bosnia, one that probably holds thousands of victims. But what the Bosnian Serbs do with the bodies, the British commanders say, is the Serbs' business.

"Investigating mass grave sites is not our job," said Lieut. Col. Benjamin Barry, the commander of the Second Battalion of Light Infantry.

American armor now routinely chugs past the spot where the mass graves of Muslims killed by Serbs who overran Srebrenica are thought to be situated. Like their British counterparts in Ljublija, the Americans have permitted Bosnian Serb soldiers to block reporters from investigating this site.

The Serbs, in Belgrade and Pale, eagerly hand out press packets with "evidence" that it was not the Serbs who slaughtered civilians in Sarajevo, but Bosnia's Muslim-led Government in an effort to rouse international sympathy by secretly murdering their own. That any claim of innocence can be made, when up to 900 shells a day fell on Sarajevo from the Serb-held hills above, is stunning. But sincere and well-educated Serbs insist this is true.

The problem is a lack of first-hand evidence. Yes, the world has been exposed to photographs of camps and reports of freight-car deportations in 1992, to reports that thousands of young men have disappeared, and to the many mutually supporting accounts of Croats and Muslims who suffered terror and rape, or who watched brothers and fathers rounded up in Srebrenica, never to be seen again. This may be enough for the rest of the world (including a United Nations commission) to conclude that the Serbs were, especially brutal in the Bosnia war,

but it has not been enough to strip the Serbs of their capacity for denial.

The lie at the heart of the denial — that Serbs did nothing special here — is not just a means of protecting war criminals in Pale or Belgrade. It is also an important defense mechanism for the ordinary Serb. It permits the participants and their countrymen to believe that, however awful it all was, what they did was unavoidable. It was part of the war.

Bosnian Serb soldiers who carried out "ethnic cleansing" around Prijedor and Banja Luka said they found the task distasteful, but somehow necessary; in their eyes, they had even engaged in a strange self-sacrifice to see the genocide through. Like the German Einsatzgruppen in World War II, who lined up Jews, partisans, the mentally ill and Gypsies over open pits and gunned them down, the Bosnian Serb executioners found their work easier to take if they were drunk.

A 'Duty' to Kill

"You think any of us found this pleasant?" one Bosnian Serb commander asked. "It was a duty we carried out to save our country."

The insistence by officials in Belgrade that the Muslims who died in Srebrenica were killed by other Muslims may sound ridiculous now. But if left unchecked by hard historical evidence, it is a sure bet that many Serbs will find it easy to believe such lies, and increasingly difficult to face either their own consciences or the fellow Bosnians with whom they must deal if there is to be peace.

That is where the role of outsiders is uncertain.

The NATO troops are not in quite the same position as the Allies who defeated Hitler. Not yet fully deployed, these are not occupiers but peacekeepers, having been invited to Bosnia after NATO jets and bombs helped push back the Serbs and persuaded them that they, too, were exhausted by war. Still, the NATO troops have considerable power to do as they wish, and if they chose to help unmask war crimes they could do so. NATO commanders know where Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, who have been indicted, reside. There are enough reports about where mass graves are, or where bodies have been moved to from mass graves that have been emptied. Bosnia is not that big and NATO's forces say they have the right to travel anywhere.

But NATO's position is that its forces are obligated to arrest only those war criminals they stumble upon, and that war crimes investigation is for civilians, not soldiers. Perhaps that understanding was needed to obtain the Dayton agreement, which gave NATO safe entry to Bosnia's killing fields in the first place. But the nuanced aloofness that it has produced still contrasts strikingly to the experience of 50 years ago, when British and American armor forced crowds of cowed Germans to see the death camps for themselves.

ECONOMY

Don't Tell These Hong Kong Women Its a Man's World

By EDWARD A. GARGAN

JADE CHOW was happy in Los Angeles. She had received her master's in business administration from the University of Southern California, finished off two years at a medium-sized accounting firm and had just gotten married. She was on her way to becoming an American success story. Then her mother phoned.

"She was running our silk company," Ms. Chow recalled. "She said I had to come home to help. I said, 'For how long?' She said at least three months. That was in 1990."

Every morning now, Ms. Chow is picked up by her driver in Hong Kong and taken across the border into China to the family's silk garment factory. There, she oversees nearly 1,000 cutters, sewers, dyers and office workers for one of the largest silk garment companies in Shenzhen, one of China's first special economic zones, created in the early 1980's to encourage foreign investment.

Ms. Chow's story is familiar in a region dominated by family businesses — the dutiful child returning to assume the reins of business from aging parents. But this story is different, for it is typically the sons who inherit businesses. Indeed, when a family has only daughters, it is not unusual for the daughters' husbands to assume command.

In Hong Kong's world of male chieftains, only a handful of women run their own empires. A few younger women are emerging, but there are still formidable obstacles to the ascent of female tycoons; an ingrained Chinese preference for male

heirs and male kingpins means that the road to the top is dotted with land mines. In the professions, in academia, and particularly in local politics, women have become a formidable presence; only at the summit of business do they remain a rarity.

Yet there is a sprinkling of women tycoons. Some have taken over after the death of husbands, while some have stepped in when there are no male heirs or when male heirs are indifferent to the cloistered world of a family business. Indeed, even as women tycoons remain rare, it is occasionally said that the tradition of male inheritance does not always enhance a family empire.

"This has its roots in Chinese history and tradition," explained S. Gordon Redding, a professor of management at the University of Hong Kong. "Chinese Confucianism accords power and authority to the father figure. The woman is always the fallback."

Few tycoons here, or anywhere in Asia, have rivaled Nina Wang in success — or in secrecy.

Trilled by three tightly braided pigtails, Ms. Wang scampered through her offices one day recently to show a visitor her latest project, a model of a slim blue tower that evokes the Chrysler Building in New York.

Her fingers traced the scalloped summit of a model almost as tall as the diminutive Ms. Wang herself. "We want this to be the highest building in the world," she said. "We need this kind of landmark for Hong Kong."

Few who have watched Ms. Wang wade through Hong Kong's intensely competitive and combative property and development market doubt her resolve. Indeed, as the "chairlady"

— her preferred term — of the Chincham Group, the largest privately held company in Hong Kong, Ms. Wang is used to getting what she wants. And since the kidnapping, and presumed death, of her husband in 1990, Ms. Wang has grabbed the reins with unrestrained — and, to her male counterparts, jarring — gusto.

Amid Hong Kong's male-dominated family empires, Ms. Wang sticks out like a shaft of light in a grim gray room. Given to fire-engine-red vinyl mini-skirts, T-shirts emblazoned with silver lame hearts and patent-leather platform shoes, Ms. Wang is intolerant of convention and impatient with tradition. Obsessively secretive about her wealth — generally believed to be well over \$1 billion — Ms. Wang pursues her development and overseas investments happily free of shareholders' whims.

Ms. Wang's role as corporate titan began six years ago. In 1990, as Ms. Wang's husband, Teddy Wang Teh-huei, set out for work from their house on Victoria Peak, he was abducted by a group of armed men. The kidnapers demanded \$50 million in ransom. Ms. Wang paid slightly more than half, but her husband, whose family had started the business, was never heard from again; rumor has it that he was killed on a boat in Hong Kong's waters and dumped overboard. In fact, it was the second abduction of Mr. Wang; after he was kidnapped in 1983, Ms. Wang paid \$11 million to see him home.

Mr. Wang had been regarded as Hong Kong's 15th-richest person. Today, it is difficult to place Ms. Wang in the hierarchy of those here with astronomical wealth because she steadfastly refuses to take her company public.

"From time to time, we've talked about it," she said, "but the timing is never right."

In the meantime, Ms. Wang has steadily expanded Chincham's reach. While she declines to value her holdings, the company — 90 percent of whose stock belongs to her — owns or has interests in about 200 buildings in Hong Kong, including industrial, commercial and residential projects. She has made two small investments in Henan province in China and has invested in two biotechnology companies in California, Sequus Pharmaceutical and Genslab. She said she was contemplating a gold mining venture, but preferred not to discuss it.

But it is the Nina Tower that seems to provoke the most excitement for Ms. Wang, and the most frustration. Her plans are under siege by other tower projects around Asia, each shooting for the record height. "We started with 468 meters," she said — 1,535 feet — "but the towers in Kuala Lumpur were a little bit taller. So we'll go higher. I've always liked the Chrysler Building. I've seen it again and again. I want to do something like that. I don't want to copy it, but something that resembles it." She now says, "We want it to be higher than 500 meters," or 1,640 feet.

With the site preparation done, she is impatiently awaiting clearance from Hong Kong's airport authorities, who are worried that the height of the building may interfere with the new airport's radar systems. She said she was sure that approval would ultimately be granted.

And how, she was asked, does she intend to finance this building, which may cost \$1 billion? "Cash," she says simply. "Cash."

Sally Au Sian, the dean of Hong Kong's women tycoons, is far less flamboyant, yet no less influential. And while she inherited the family business from her father, she did much to expand it both here and abroad.

Hard against the tarmac of Hong Kong's aging, frenetically busy airport looms the fortress-like gray concrete building that houses the newspapers of the Sing Tao Group. Striding through the newsroom of the morning paper, she surveyed her domain with a quick eye before heading to London to celebrate the installation of new lights for the Nelson monument in Trafalgar Square, lights she has paid for.

"They come to us foreigners for donations," she said, shaking her head at the demise of the colonial power. "England doesn't have enough money, so we lend a hand."

Hong Kong's only female newspaper tycoon, Ms. Au took the wreckage of her family's fortunes and built

an empire that straddles the globe. And while her flagship paper, the Sing Tao Daily, is neither the largest nor the most influential of Hong Kong's 76 dailies, it is the centerpiece of a chain of papers printed across Asia, North America and Europe.

Ms. Au was born in Burma in 1931, into a family of herbalists. Her father invented one of the most widely known traditional medications in Asia, Tiger Balm, an all-purpose ointment that users rub on their abdomens to ease stomachaches or on their temples for headaches. The ointment is seen everywhere in Asia, although Ms. Au no longer controls the company that makes it.

In the 1930's, Ms. Au's father started newspapers in Singapore and China. "He paid so much for ads that he thought it would be cheaper just to open a few newspapers," she said. "He used to drive around in a car built like a tiger. That's why he thought at the same time he wanted to voice his opinion in a newspaper. My uncle's side of the family took Tiger Balm and we were left with the papers."

"My father was ahead of his time," explained Ms. Au, whose crisp but conservative jackets and slacks emphasize her no-nonsense style. "But he passed away when I was young, when I was in my 20's. So I've been in business more than 30 years."

Last year, Sing Tao had about \$360 million in revenue and a market value of \$280 million. But the cost of newsprint has begun to eat rapidly into the company's profit, just as it has at other newspaper companies worldwide. Still, the circulation of the morning paper, at about 65,000 daily, ranks it securely among the territory's top five.

One of the company's biggest money makers is the comic book division, called Culturecom, which dominates the market here in Asian comic books. A foray by The Sing Tao Daily into the World Wide Web is, as are most such efforts, still unprofitable. "I don't know how long it will take to make money with this," she said. "Nobody knows."

That's the big question.

Like other Hong Kong newspaper owners, Ms. Au has been wooed aggressively by Beijing, mainly for her access to the global Chinese diaspora through editions published in Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Britain. On her first visit to Beijing several years ago, she was received by President Jiang Zemin, a meeting that she took for what it was, an effort to win her over.

Both Ms. Au and Ms. Wang are candid about their relative isolation atop Hong Kong's business world. "During my generation, there are almost no women," Ms. Au said. "I don't think I behave any differently from men, but in meetings I always find myself as the only lady."

"Some people are a little uneasy dealing with a woman," said Ms. Wang, who demurred when asked her age, but is probably in her 50's. "At building sites, workers swear a lot. But when I go there, they don't. Development people are a little old-fashioned, so I talk to the younger generation more. The older people don't approve of me. I wear mini-skirts all the time. They never invite me to those dinners they have."

Indeed, when a group of Hong Kong tycoons established a foundation this year to bolster the territory's image, Ms. Wang was not among the founders. "They didn't even ask me," she said.

While Ms. Au and Ms. Wang represent the older generation of female tycoons, a new wave of women are making their presence felt. In 1990, Laura M. Cha left a lucrative position at Coudert Brothers, the American law firm, to become an executive director of the newly created Securities and Futures Commission, the Hong Kong counterpart of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"I wanted to be in the ring where the action is," she said. "At the time I joined I was the only woman. Now, 3 out of the 15 directors are women, but I'm the only woman of the 5 executive directors."

"In the business community here," she continued, "there are not

a lot of women at the top. In the financial world, there are even fewer."

And there are other women, like Lulu Man-ying Yu, the 34-year-old scion of the Yu family development empire built around Kumagai Gumi (Hong Kong) Ltd. Apart from being a director of the company, Ms. Yu also helps manage its hotel interests in China and runs her own chain of bakeries and restaurants here. "It's always the sons who inherit," said Ms. Yu, who is single, "but in our case, there was only a daughter."

And then there are the Chows, who while not tycoons in the grand Hong Kong sense, demonstrate the local entrepreneurial ethos. And yet, although there was an elder son, they turned to Jade to take control.

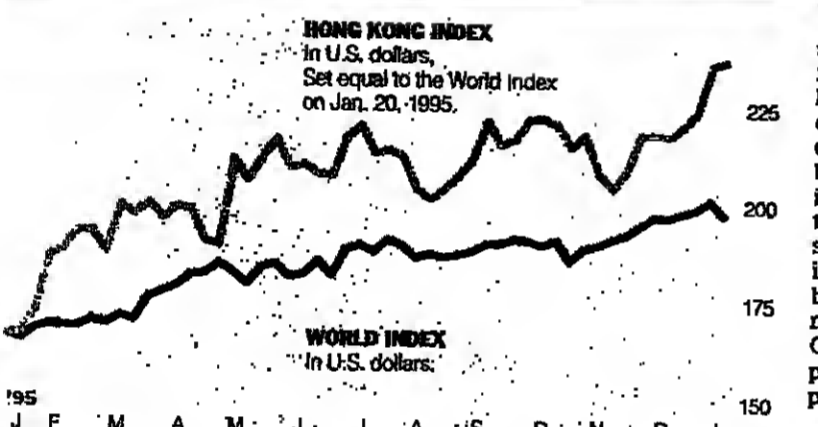
"My brother was helping out," Ms. Chow explained, "but I don't think he was happy. He couldn't deal with the problems of a manufacturing business. My brother was constantly worried about face, about keeping face. I'm not so concerned about face. If I make a wrong decision, I'll turn around and take it back."

With about \$13 million in sales last year, and about 1,000 employees, Ms. Chow's Elegance Industrial Company — which does not disclose its profits — is among the largest silk garment manufacturers in Shenzhen, across the border in China. She brought her husband, David, into the company and he now runs its marketing operations.

But Ms. Chow, 32, said that if she were single, she probably would not have been easily lured back to the unglamorous life of running the family company.

"A large percentage of daughters don't want to run the family business even if they are given a chance," she explained. "All my friends are U.S.-educated and they aren't interested in the family business at all. The family business is not very glamorous, not something for a woman. If I wasn't married, I wouldn't be doing this. I mean, what's glamorous about running a silk garment factory in China?"

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actives Weighted Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Table with columns: Country, Index, Week % Chg., Week Rank, YTD % Chg., YTD Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, YTD % Chg. Rows include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United States.

COMPOSITE INDICES

Table with columns: Region, Index, Week % Chg., YTD % Chg., Index, YTD % Chg. Rows include Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, World.

Sources: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1995 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Exchange rate, Friday, Last Friday, Week % Chg., Year Ago. Rows include Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar, German marks to the U.S. dollar, Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar, U.S. dollars to the British pound.

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

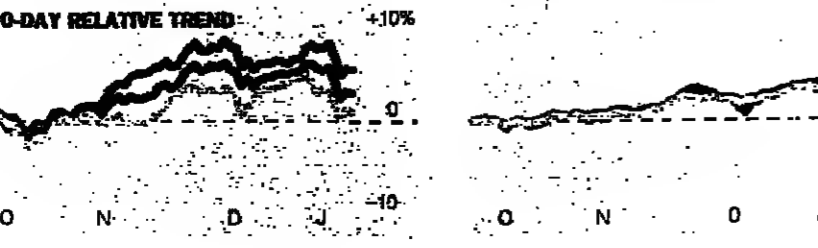


Having made her mark on Hong Kong's real estate business, Nina Wang now hopes to erect the world's tallest building.

Photographs by Stephen Slaver for The New York Times

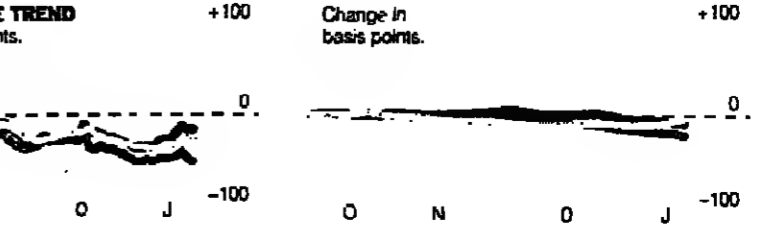
Jan. 8-12: Stocks Slump on Budget Impasse

Table with columns: Market, Change. Rows include Broad market S & P 500 index (Down 2.42%), Blue chips Dow 30 Industrials (Down 2.32%), Small capitalization Russell 2000 index (Down 2.26%).



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

Table with columns: YIELDS, OTHER INVESTMENTS. Rows include Long bonds (6.14%), Short bonds (5.15%), Municipals (5.64%), Money market funds (5.11%), Bank C.D.'s (4.90%), Stocks S & P 500 dividend yield (2.36%).



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Settle Now, Fight Later

President Clinton has proposed a constructive end to the budget impasse. He proposes splitting negotiations with Republican leaders in two.

In the first round, which could be completed quickly, the two parties would resolve their diminishing differences over spending and, perhaps, tax cuts that would balance the budget within seven years. In the second round, to be put off until voters decide in November whom they want to run Congress and the White House, the parties would decide how to restructure Federal entitlements like Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr. Clinton's proposal is admittedly self-serving. It would allow him to march into November as an effective leader who, despite an onslaught by extremist Republicans, kept Government offices open and forged a balanced budget agreement while preserving Medicaid and Medicare. But the proposal might also appeal to Republicans. They could say, with justification, that the G.O.P. forced Mr. Clinton to embrace their approach to a tax cut and balanced budget. They could also claim they were wrenched from Mr. Clinton's pledge to knock about 30 percent off discretionary spending — curbing the heart out of what he calls public investments in education, training and technological research but which the Republicans call Federal sloth.

Beyond political posturing, the budget two-step has a powerful rationale. The first-round issues are of modest dimensions. Whether Washington runs \$200 billion deficits — one of the smallest deficits, for the size of the economy, among industrialized countries — does not affect the economy very much. Neither would a \$200 billion tax cut over seven years. If those issues were resolved in the first round of negotiations, Democrats and Republicans could turn next fall to more fundamental issues.

Should Washington, as liberal Democrats insist, guarantee the poor, no matter where they live,

cash assistance, food stamps and health insurance? Or, as the G.O.P. says, should states take care of the poor as they alone determine? Should Medicare — which will drive the Federal deficit to dizzying levels in about 15 years — be let alone, as Mr. Clinton proposes, or transformed, as the G.O.P. proposes, into a voucher system that gives the elderly the choice of traditional fee-for-service coverage or private managed care?

Mr. Clinton and the Republicans can complete the first round of negotiations quickly because they have drawn close on the raw numbers. The G.O.P.'s latest proposal would cut personal taxes by about \$200 billion, almost half of what the Contract With America called for, and about \$100 billion more than what the President proposes. Splitting the difference and spreading the cut over seven years would produce a budget that is less than \$10 billion a year different from what either side now proposes — a small difference compared with the \$1 trillion the Government collects from taxpayers each year.

The spending gaps are also modest. The G.O.P. wants to cut Medicare by about \$170 billion over seven years. The President says \$100 billion. The Republicans want to cut Medicaid by \$85 billion. The President says \$50 billion. There is, as this page has argued, good reason to question whether either budget is wise. But there is little basis to claim that one budget is radically different from the other.

The political hot wires that the parties use to inflame voters — balanced budgets and tax cuts — are economic sideshows. The best way to get voters and politicians talking about policies that do matter is to put the sideshows to rest. Mr. Clinton and the Republican leadership can do voters a favor by putting their common spending and tax plans into law. Then get on with the debate about the type of Federal Government Americans want to have as they head into the 21st century.

In China, Sadly Familiar Behavior

It was only last month that apologists for China's repressive Communist dictatorship were telling Westerners that instead of complaining about Beijing's persecution of isolated intellectual democrats like Wei Jingsheng they should be focusing on Beijing's achievements — raising the masses out of poverty, for example, and feeding the hungry.

Apparently outsiders were not meant to look very closely at the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, the largest orphanage in China's showcase metropolis. Human Rights Watch did look, pursuing charges by a physician who had once worked there that orphans lived in appalling conditions and experienced alarmingly high death rates. The doctor claims to have documented more than a thousand cases of orphans who were deliberately starved to death. Reporters following up these allegations quickly confirmed the orphanage was in terrible shape and that death rates had reached 20 percent in the recent past.

So far, they have not been able to verify the charge of deliberate starvation. Even so, these grim findings again demonstrate Beijing's indifference to human life, true to the Leninist tradition that any and all means of repression are justified by the historic end of retaining power.

It matters not to Beijing whether the lives are those of unarmed civilian demonstrators mowed down by tanks in Tiananmen Square, prisoners held

at the edge of starvation in "reform through labor" camps or children warehoused in orphanages. This cold-blooded philosophy is guaranteed to throw up repeated conflicts with basic American values, conflicts that are bound to complicate the efforts of any American Administration to maintain harmonious relations with China for the sake of geopolitics or trade.

The Chinese authorities themselves are ultimately the most serious obstacle to smooth relations. By spurning Washington's repeated gestures of good will, Beijing has begun to damage its own interests on issues that China cares about.

Reluctantly but realistically, the Clinton Administration has begun talking again about ways to link China's approach to human rights and its access to preferential trade arrangements. Earlier this month the Administration barely hesitated before issuing a transit visa to a high Taiwanese official, despite China's vigorous objections. That was the right decision, but Washington might have given more weight to Beijing's complaints had China not behaved so belligerently toward Taiwan in recent months.

Americans may not be able to induce China's aging leaders to treat their own citizens with minimal decency. But they can at least insist that Washington not go out of its way to accommodate Beijing's agenda.

Editorial Notebook

State of the Something

Early January is State of the Something season in political circles, when every elected official worth his or her salt wants to make a Big Speech, bragging about past achievements, setting goals for the new year and making a stab at major-league oratory.

In New York, of course, all these efforts are compared with Mario Cuomo's. But even Mr. Cuomo could not always give speeches like Mario Cuomo. Off the national stage, the Governor was often an undisciplined speaker, whose teleprompter would spin wildly as beleaguered aides tried to figure out which point in the text he would land at next. He once ad-libbed a reference to state lawmakers as "monkeys," with unfortunate consequences for the year's legislative agenda.

Gov. George Pataki is definitely a man who follows a script, and it is just as well. Halfway through this year's State of the State speech, he tossed in an unexpected "thank you" and some in the audience thought it was a cue to go home. Mr. Pataki veered off into only one spontaneous riff — on an issue of culinary preference. Listing some examples of state bureaucracy run amok, he noted that a Syracuse nursing home had been cited for allowing creamed corn to run into the mashed potatoes on the residents' lunch plates. "I'll bet half a dozen of you actually mix your potatoes and creamed corn on purpose!" Mr. Pataki cried, going on to speculate that one colorful and well-fed Queens Democrat was probably among the mixers, and to drop little hints that he might also squish his vegetables together in the privacy of his own home.

The theme of Mr. Pataki's speech was the evils of big government. But his examples of overregulation were so trivial — an upstate liquor salesman pestered by conflicting building laws and the dreaded creamed corn incident — that few of his supporters stormed from the room, vowing to trash the next bureaucracy they came across. In fact, the major topic of post-speech conversation was why Lieut. Gov. Betsy McCaughey Ross had chosen to stand through the entire address. Was she reading over

This Is the Season For Summing Up

Mr. Pataki's shoulder? In City Hall, the big State of the Something news was that Council Speaker Peter Vallone's speech had been aggressive, while Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had sounded rather cuddly. The city's personality transplants so beloved by generations of "Star Trek" scriptwriters.

Mr. Vallone usually gives small, defensive speeches arguing that the City Council really is an important player in local government ("We even, after an emotionally charged debate, put in place a horse carriage bill!"). But this year, the Speaker had a Big Idea (continue the income-tax surcharge to raise money for school construction), and he managed to couple it with some rather clever attacks on the Mayor: A near-compulsive introducer, thinker and acknowledger, he could not resist stepping on one of his most dramatic lines to stop and note that he had just caught sight of his late-arriving son, "over there in the back."

Mr. Giuliani is no orator, and his best public addresses tend to sound like courtroom summations. But few politicians can make a long speech that is as easy to follow. Mr. Giuliani had a Big Thought this year, too — a promise to focus his attentions on reorganizing the city agency that protects children. The Mayor also spent less time than normal on his administration's recent achievements. But his staff made up for it by distributing a 31-page list of things City Hall has accomplished over the last two years.

The Mayor, who does not have Mr. Vallone's compulsion to share the spotlight with others, introduced a carefully calculated mix of city workers, community representatives and union leaders, whose activities highlighted the themes of his speech. He also introduced the Lieutenant Governor, who immediately jumped from her seat and ran over to shake Mr. Giuliani's hand. The only possible conclusion is that Ms. McCaughey Ross is yearning to make a State of the Something speech of her own. GAIL COLLINS

Angry, and We're Not Going to Take It Anymore

To the Editor:
I am astonished by your assertion (Week in Review, Jan. 7) that the American voter has mellowed. I am American, as are my friends and colleagues. We also vote and many of us are furious at the Republican attack on children, women, the poor and the environment. We are dismayed by heightened attacks on immigrants and by resurgent racism.

The chaos at the Passport Office in Rocketteller Center in New York this week was a predictable result of the Republican closure of Government services and an example of that party's disregard for us.

Do you think the many people without passports who are trying to travel are not angry? How about the 40,000 workers to be fired from a profitable AT&T, or the striking office maintenance workers in New York? Many may feel overwhelmed. We may not have organized yet to fight for a return to a more decent world, but we have never been so angry. WILLIAM P. MITCHELL, West Long Branch, N.J., Jan. 10, 1996
The writer is professor of anthropology at Monmouth University.

ment is possible and passing the buck to the voters may also prove to be a colossal waste of time. What happens if voters are as divided as their elected officials and return Mr. Clinton to the White House while keeping the Republicans in control of Congress? The country deserves better than to be kept in limbo for 18 more months. DANIEL S. VOLCHOK, New York, Jan. 11, 1996

To the Editor:
The budget impasse leaves me with a sense of desperation. Man-



verings for political advantage have wiped out the central issue. By the first quarter of the next century the cost of entitlements like

Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will require an 82 percent tax on earned income to meet the bill.

President Clinton and his advisers are demagoguing the issue because it is politically difficult. Their concern is only with re-election next November.

The Republicans are doing the heavy lifting in entitlement reform. It may cost them the election.

The plain truth is that the Government has promised future benefits that cannot be paid. This must be addressed. TOM WILCOUGHBY, Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 11, 1996

To the Editor:
The dispute between the White House and Republican leaders over Medicaid may be the most ideologically divisive issue in the budget impasse.

An obstacle to a resolution is the Republican leadership's failure to acknowledge how closely Medicaid is woven into the fabric of middle-class American life.

While three-quarters of Medicaid recipients are poor women and children who receive health insurance benefits from the program, 75 percent of Medicaid funds are spent on rehabilitation and community supports for people with mental illness, mental retardation and physical disabilities and for nursing home care for the elderly.

The Medicaid debate should begin with two questions: Did the people elect their Federal representatives to dismantle Medicaid? Will they be prepared to take on the hardship of providing long-term care in their homes to a sister with schizophrenia, a mother with Alzheimer's disease or a son with profound mental retardation? MARY HURTIG, Policy Dir., Mental Health Assn. of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Jan. 10, 1996

To the Editor:
I do not believe this country has seen anything as ridiculous as the Federal budget battle in a long time.

Both sides treat the need for a balanced budget and the elimination of the Federal deficit within seven years as critically urgent for the survival of our nation, yet both sides do not fail to include in their "plans" a hefty tax break for the well-to-do, in particular the House of Representatives' proposed \$240 billion capital gains tax cut.

It is difficult to take the Republicans seriously. Either eliminating the deficit is as urgent as they say, or it is not. If it is, giving anyone a tax break of \$240 billion makes no sense. If it is not, the on-line responsibility of the highest order.

The General Accounting Office has indicated that \$12 billion is needed to build new schools and repair old ones because schools are crumbling, unsafe or overcrowded. This is a time for tax cuts?

If balancing the budget and eliminating the deficit are so urgent, why did the House add close to \$6 billion in spending to what the military asked for? CARLOS J. POPULUS, Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 10, 1996

90 and Willing to Pay

To the Editor:
When Congress enacted Medicare legislation in 1966, our average life expectancy was 69 years.

Today the average life expectancy is about 76, and that increase has to a large extent been the result of Medicare's watchfulness over the health of the elderly.

We who have benefited and are living beyond our appointed years (I am 90) should, based on financial ability, pay higher premiums for Medicare than those who have not yet been granted the privilege of living on borrowed time. Both sides of the aisle and President Clinton should be able to see that this is fair. EDWARD RONDTALER, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., Jan. 7, 1996

West Didn't Fail Russian Market Reform

To the Editor:
Michael M. Weinstein (Editorial Notebook, Jan. 10) says the West "squandered" an opportunity by denying \$25 billion a year in aid to underwrite President Boris N. Yeltsin's "radical plan for moving to a market economy" in Russia. The program announced by acting Prime Minister Yegor T. Gaidar in 1992 contained no such opportunity.

The "shock therapy" target to slash the Russian budget deficit from 17 percent to 21 percent of gross domestic product in 1991 to zero in the first quarter of 1992 was a pipe dream rather than a realistic agenda. The huge reduction of subsidies to consumers and industry and of state-financed investments were Soviet-style fiat.

There was no strategy for dealing with the Supreme Soviet, which was divided into equal factions comprising, respectively, Communists, reformers and an unsteady group of legislators who could float in either direction. The shock therapists ruled out consensus building.

The assertion that an immediate commitment of \$25 billion from the West would have tilted the political scales in favor of the reformers overlooks that aid absorption by Russia

could not have matched aid approvals.

For instance, the World Bank approved almost \$3 billion in loans for Russia, but by June 1994 only \$387 million had been used. And although the United States Congress appropriated \$2 billion from 1992 to 1994, by December 1994 less than \$300 million had been spent.

The West did not fail Russia. Mr. Gaidar's plan foundered because it was improbable. PADMA DESAI, New York, Jan. 10, 1996

The writer is professor of comparative economics, Columbia U.

To the Editor:

It's nonsense to say that the Yeltsin Government faltered in the last few years because of lack of cash from the West (Editorial Notebook, Jan. 10). The Russian ruling class, not the West, "covered" by refusing to invest in their own country.

The nomenklatura has taken hundreds of billions of dollars out of Russia and soaked it away in Swiss bank accounts and other investments. This looting of the country was in full swing in 1991-92, and continues. CARL OLSON, Chairman, State Department Watch, Woodland Hills, Calif., Jan. 11, 1996

U.S. Must Face Role in South Korean Scandal

To the Editor:
This Monday will bring resumption of the trial of former President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea for accumulating a slush fund allegedly extorted from conglomerates. You have maintained (news article, Dec. 19) that Mr. Roh "ushered in" Korean democracy.

Mr. Roh assisted former President Chun Doo Hwan, who is also expected to be indicted for bribe-taking in staging a military coup in 1979. In 1980 they were responsible for the massacre of hundreds of citizens in Kwangju by Government troops.

During the coup and the Kwangju massacre, South Korean forces were under the operational control of the United States-South Korean Combined Forces Command. The combined forces commander, Gen. John Wickham, released the South Korean Army's 20th Division from operational control.

A 1988 South Korean congressional hearing revealed that the suppression was postponed three days to

await arrival of a United States aircraft carrier and naval forces from the Philippines and Okinawa. Why were they deployed?

Two weeks after Kwangju the Carter Administration assured Mr. Chun of continued financial support, and in early 1981 Mr. Chun was the first head of state invited by the newly elected Ronald Reagan.

You present the issue as the corruption of two individuals rather than as a systemic problem involving United States support of military regimes. United States-based multinational corporations and military contractors have been partners in forging militarism to capitalism.

South Korea is moving to right past wrongs. Is the United States likewise prepared to face the truth? CHUNGMOO CHOI, EUN MEE KIM, Irvine, Calif., Jan. 11, 1996

The writers are associate professors at, respectively, University of California and U. of Southern California.

Segregated Schools Can Do Students No Good

To the Editor:
Whatever the problems the Yonkers public schools are experiencing as a result of integration, it is outrageous to suggest that segregation constitutes a viable educational strategy (letter, Jan. 7).

Students of color who attend segregated schools are hindered in their ability to advance within society. To be sure, if such schools offer dedicated teachers and well-financed programs (often not the case), students could succeed academically.

Even when such conditions are present, students are shortchanged, for racial isolation may compromise their ability to succeed in college and in the job market.

Such students may experience culture shock and may feel intimidated upon entering a predominantly white college or the predominantly white business world. They will succeed in such situations less frequently than those students of color who

have attended integrated schools.

Segregated schooling also harms students of color because, having been deprived of contact with minorities, whites who attended segregated schools will be less inclined to build interracial bridges in college and in job settings.

Such whites may become distrustful of minorities, leading to diminished economic opportunities for people of color.

Thus segregated schools perpetuate racial inequality in society at large. JONATHAN FELDMAN, Maplewood, N.J., Jan. 10, 1996

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include writer's name, address and telephone number. We regret that we cannot acknowledge unpublished letters. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send to Letters, to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

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Internet Hate Speech Shouldn't Be Banned

To the Editor:
As much as I despise groups like the Aryan Nation and the Ku Klux Klan, I cannot support the Simon Wiesenthal Center's call to ban such groups from the Internet's World Wide Web (news article, Jan. 10).

The center's Rabbi Abraham Cooper is rightly concerned that the World Wide Web will allow hatred to be disseminated more easily, but banning it will only force it underground. The disseminators will be able to claim that the "system" is persecuting them and thus win converts to their causes.

Censorship is not the answer, no matter how offensive the speech. Allowing people to be muzzled for what they say is to become akin to those we oppose. MARK SUGRAT, Astoria, Queens, Jan. 10, 1996

To the Editor:
You write (news article, Jan. 10) that the Institute for Historical Review "publishes revisionist histories." Historical revisionism is a legitimate academic pursuit.

The Institute's work, which has nothing to do with scholarship, is Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism's cutting edge. BERNIE M. FARRER, Dir., Community Relations, Canadian Jewish Congress, Willowdale, Ontario, Jan. 11, 1996

'Budget Crisis' Defined

By Felix G. Rohatyn

The stalled negotiations over the Federal budget run the risk of creating significant instability in the financial markets.

This is the result of two different factors. The first is largely emotional. The gloomy predictions by politicians and the media that the markets may collapse if no agreement is reached could become a self-fulfilling prophecy with no basis in reality. The second factor is much more dangerous and could lead to market unrest, and worse. It is the continued threat of default on the \$4.9 trillion national debt if the Congressional Republicans refuse to raise the legal debt limit in February.

The country's financial situation is very strong. Over the last three years, as a result of the Clinton Administration's fiscal policies and the Federal Reserve's monetary policies, the budget deficit has been cut in half, to less than 2.5 percent of the gross domestic product.

Interest rates have decreased significantly, and the Dow Jones industrial average is near an all-time high. In addition, our trade deficit is coming down, and the dollar has strengthened. Even though the economy is slowing down, this is not the stuff of financial crisis.

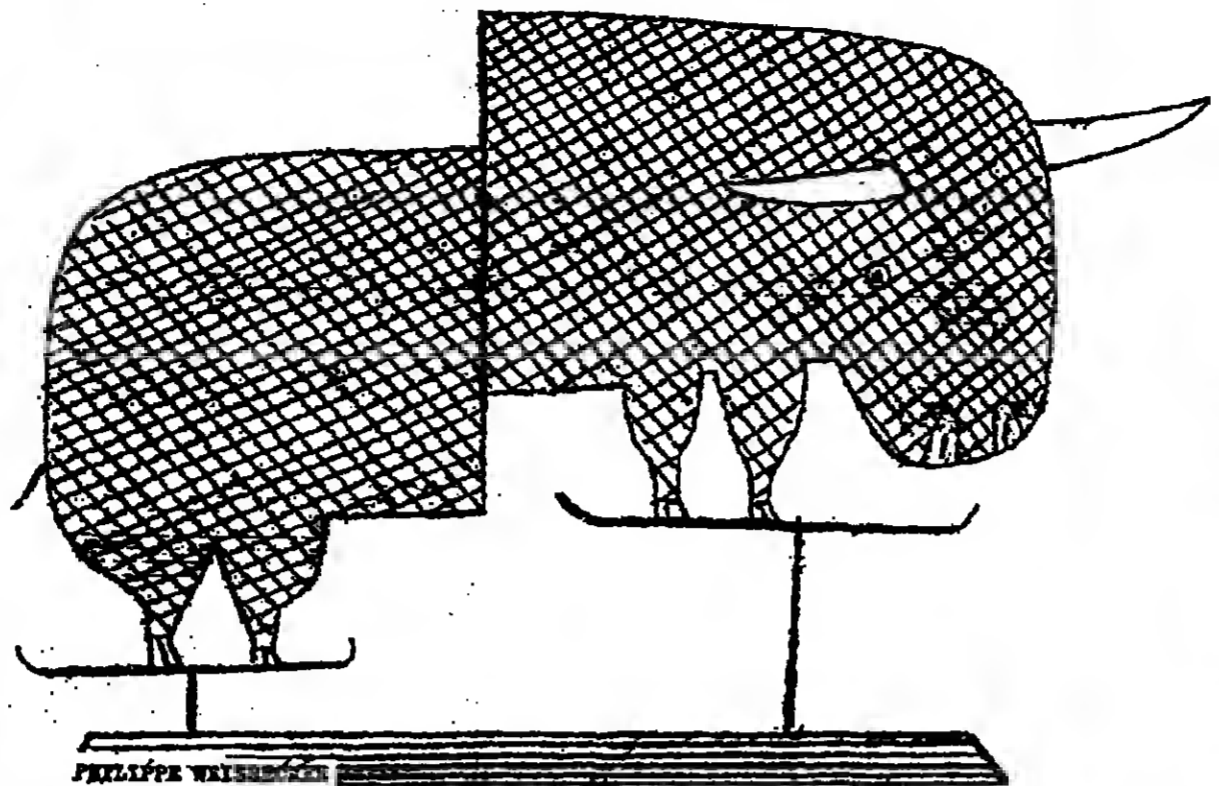
The threats to the market are being exaggerated.

It is important to look at the reality of the budget negotiations. Both the Administration and the Congressional Republicans agree on a fundamental principle: a balanced budget in seven years based on Congressional Budget Office projections. The differences in numbers in their respective budget plans are relatively small — about \$100 billion over seven years, which is about 1 percent of the \$10 trillion the Government is likely to spend over that period.

But the difference in philosophy between the two sides is very wide. Should the states be given responsibility for poverty programs like Medicaid and welfare? Should entitlements like Medicare be maintained? Where should taxes be cut and whom should they benefit?

These are important issues, on which compromise may not be possible in an election year. But that is no reason for a calamity in the markets. If no agreement is reached in the next few weeks, the voters can decide in the Presidential election which approach they prefer. That is what democracy is all about.

Felix G. Rohatyn is a managing director at Lazard Frères, investment bankers.



The markets may well prefer the Republicans' approach over the Administration's. But the markets cannot be the sole arbiters of Government policy. The people must also be heard in the budget debate.

There are flaws in both budget plans. The Administration's plan fails to deal realistically with the growth in Medicare costs, and its spending cuts are excessively concentrated in the final years of the plan. Neither plan should include tax cuts, and the Republican plan, in calling for the states to take over poverty programs, takes significant risks with the social safety net.

Both plans avoid the opportunity of creating significant savings by the downward adjustment of the Consumer Price Index, which overstates the rate of inflation. This would reduce automatic cost-of-living increases in entitlement programs and increase taxes now indexed to inflation. But the fact remains that both sides are locked into a principle of balance over seven years.

If there is no budget agreement in the near term, the markets may very well go down, but that in itself should not start a crisis.

After a 40 percent increase in the Dow Jones industrial average over the past year, a 10 percent to 15 percent correction could happen for any number of reasons, the simplest one being that the markets were too high in the first place. Furthermore, a slowing economy is generating disappointing earnings, and the significant slowdown in Europe will harm our export earnings.

It is true that the financial markets have to be dealt with very carefully. They are something like a rhinoceros: powerful and dangerous, and rather nearsighted. But even though the talk of financial crisis has become routine for any number of reasons, no crisis has occurred so far and none is on the horizon. And none need be set in motion on the budget issue, unless one is created by continued predictions on the part of financial analysts and the media that a crisis is in the making.

The danger of a default on the national debt, however, is far more serious and could create a catastrophe on two counts:

Politically, it could appear to the world that the functioning of our democratic institutions had collapsed and that the country is no longer governable by traditional means.

Financially, a default could trigger a global financial crisis of complete-

Default, though, could cause a global disaster.

ly unpredictable proportions. It could impair the equity capital of hundreds of the world's largest financial institutions. This is simply reckless.

The Federal debt is approaching \$5 trillion. More than \$500 billion is held abroad. No one knows the legal and regulatory impact of default on financial institutions all over the world, and no one knows how much additional credit is supported by Treasury securities.

Tens of billions of dollars in bank loans, municipal bonds, derivatives and other financial instruments are secured by Treasury bonds. Default could start a global chain reaction of defaults, with serious social and economic consequences. The amount of credit put at risk would be far greater than \$5 trillion.

In normal times, the idea that this could happen in order to force a resolution of budget differences which are small in numbers but significant in public policy would be inconceivable. But we have witnessed the shutdown of the Government over this very issue. This is a sign that we are not living in normal times.

There is no conceivable reason for any of this to happen. After all, the Congressional Republicans have achieved the core of their Contract With America: a balanced budget in seven years, in accordance with Congressional Budget Office numbers. We should not, however, overlook another equally important contract — the contract with the holders of American debt and American currency. That contract cannot be broken.

Every effort should be made in the next few weeks to reach an agreement on the budget. If no agreement between the Congressional Republicans and the White House is possible, then a veto-proof agreement between Congressional Democrats and Republicans might be an acceptable alternative. But if no agreement can be reached, let the voters decide how it should be done.

Ultimately the financial markets

will not allow Washington to escape from a commitment to balance the budget, no matter who the next President is.

In the meantime, the nation should not lose sight of other fundamental economic issues: slow growth, lack of individual security, insufficient private and public investment, a failing tax system and growing disparities in income. These are fundamental and should not be buried in the fight over the budget.

The United States is the most successful industrial democracy because its currency and its credit set the world's standard. A default would seriously damage our currency and our credit, and it would cast a dark shadow over a political system that has been the envy of the world for more than 200 years.

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it unless it is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks.

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Sell Pols, Buy Bonds

WASHINGTON

The tug-of-war between President Clinton and Newt Gingrich over a balanced budget entered a new, and fascinating, phase last week.

To understand what's going on, you have to understand this: Over the past decade global financial markets have grown more powerful than governments and have acquired the ability to move capital at lightning speeds from countries practicing bad economics to those practicing sound economics. This has forced political leaders to look over their shoulders at the global stock and bond markets and to worry constantly whether those markets are giving a thumbs up or a thumbs down to particular economic policies. Politicians know that a thumbs down means money could quickly flow out of their country, leading to soaring interest rates, falling stock prices and lost elections.

In the last week we saw this game taken to a whole new level. Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Clinton are no longer just looking over their shoulders at the bond and stock markets, they are actively trying to enlist these markets onto their sides in the budget negotiations, by uttering statements calculated to make these markets go up or down. In other words, the bond market, which was seen as a passive referendum on fiscal and monetary policies, is now being actively courted or provoked by politicians to gain advantage in a budget fight.

At the moment, the President and the Speaker are not playing to the New Hampshire or Iowa caucuses. They are playing to the Wall Street caucuses. We are now in what Goldman Sachs economic expert Robert Hormats calls, "the lower Manhattan primary."

Here's the new game: Mr. Gingrich knows that if the markets dive, it will hurt Mr. Clinton much more than him, because a sitting President will ultimately be held responsible by the public for rising interest and mortgage rates, or declining stock values — in an already weak economy. Mr. Clinton knows this too, and so his goal is to keep hope alive that a budget deal is just around the corner, in order to keep markets up and give himself room for maneuver. So on Wednesday Mr. Gingrich declared: "I am for the first time in a year pessimistic about the likelihood of getting an agreement. It may just be that we need one more election." Mr.

Gingrich never mentioned a word about markets, but there was something about the deliberateness of his pessimistic message that made you know he was talking beyond voters directly to bond traders and all but screaming: SELL BONDS! Result: The Dow fell almost 100 points and interest rates soared.

So the next day I went to hear

Bill & Newt do Wall Street.

President Clinton's news conference, and I saw that same Dow Jonesy look in his eye, when he declared that a balanced budget deal was "within our grasp." Translation: Forget about Newt's pessimism. There will be a deal, interest rates will go down, so BUY BONDS! But minutes later, Mr. Gingrich was back trying to respin the market. Mr. Gingrich said of Mr. Clinton's press conference: "It does not give me much encouragement." Translation: KEEP SELLING BONDS!

Clinton political adviser James Carville once quipped that in his next life he wanted to come back as the bond market, because it was so powerful. It looks like Mr. Carville won't have to wait for his next life. Politicians are becoming the market. This is a case of life imitating money.

One certainly has to worry about the volatility effect on global markets that could result from U.S. politicians trying to spin them in the same cavalier manner they try to spin the public and the press. Then again, the bond market didn't become all-powerful by being all-stupid. It will only take a couple more rounds of this, if not less, before it catches on to what Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Clinton are up to, and goes back to focusing entirely on economic indicators, not calculated statements for its benefit.

Which is why the President and the Speaker would be well advised to recall that exchange in Shakespeare's "King Henry IV," when Glendower boasts to Hotspur: "I can call spirits from the vasty deep." And Hotspur responds: "Why, so can I, or so can any man. But will they come when you do call for them?"

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

The State of the Fish

WASHINGTON

During the '92 campaign, I had dinner with Hillary Clinton at a revolving restaurant in Kentucky. (She had not yet revolved into Hillary Rodham Clinton.) She ordered a glass of white wine with an auspicious label — the White House.

She told a story about the summer during law school when she went to Alaska and got a job in a fish-processing plant. She was supposed to scoop out the entrails, but she began to get worried about the state of the fish.

"They were purple and black and yucky looking," she recalled. She questioned the owner about how long the fish had been dead. He told her to stop asking questions. She didn't and was fired. "I found another job," she said coolly.

She reminded me of Sister Sarah, the mission doll from "Guys and Dolls." She prodded authority for the greater good. She made a career out of sounding the alarm about the state of the fish.

Now Mrs. Clinton is the authority, and she doesn't take kindly to being prodded. If anybody notices something yucky about her financial and political entrails they are supposed to trust that she is working for the greater good.

Defending his wife last week, the President said, "There are worse things than wanting every American child to have health care coverage."

Certainly. But it was the First Lady's secrecy and righteousness in trying to push through her 1,384-page bill that doomed the effort, just as her secrecy and righteousness bollixed up the lives of the bureau-

Hillary Clinton, mission doll.

crats working in the travel office. Newsweek's question — "Saint or Sinner?" — misses the point. Saint and Sinner is more like it. And her primary sin is the sin of sainthood. There are corners that only holy people will permit themselves to cut. Piety and power are old partners.

In a White House interview on Friday, Geraldine Baum of The Los Angeles Times asked the First Lady how a young lawyer on the Watergate panel named Hillary Rodham would have felt if a pile of records that had been searched for and subpoenaed for two years suddenly turned up right in the White House residence — say, in Mrs. Nixon's closet?

"We would have thought 'Hooray! They have finally turned over documents which they have withheld for years,'" Mrs. Clinton replied. "But there is no comparison between what this White House has done and what happened in the past." Of course, Whitewater was not Watergate — until a cover-up began. (Even Watergate wasn't Watergate until a cover-up began.)

Mrs. Clinton and the Democrats will spend the election year blaming Republican partisanship and male chauvinism for her troubles. They will pretend that the country cannot bear a strong woman in a position of

power. "Everything I've done was done by a former First Lady," she told Ms. Baum, weirdly continuing: "My goodness, Mrs. Wilson ran the country when her husband had his stroke. Mrs. Taft used to go in and tell Cabinet officers and Supreme Court justices what they should do."

The publicity tour for "It Takes a Village," meant to be cuddly, has degenerated into an inquisition on Mrs. Clinton's behavior.

A domybrook has erupted over Mrs. Clinton's odd decision not to give an acknowledgment to Barbara Feinman, who was paid by Simon & Schuster for seven months of researching and writing early drafts on "It Takes a Village."

Ms. Feinman is well connected here — she has worked as a researcher and editor for such Washington authors as Ben Bradlee, Bob Woodward and Sally Quinn — and her friends feel she has been badly treated by the First Lady. Mrs. Clinton's "acknowledgments" page is, in fact, the perfect illustration of her problem. It must be the only acknowledgments page in existence that thanks nobody in particular.

"I will not even attempt to acknowledge them individually," she writes. Those nine words are seven more than it would have taken to acknowledge Barbara Feinman.

Mrs. Clinton's goodness operates at a high level of generality. She seems more comfortable pursuing greater good than individual good. Her much vaunted idealism has a way of riding roughshod over those around her.

As she must remember, the fish rots from the head down.

New Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel

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FILM

Richard Dreyfuss: The Comeback Kid Tries Again

By JAMES RYAN

THE LAST TIME RICHARD Dreyfuss was anybody's choice for best actor, Jimmy Carter was wearing sweaters in the White House and John Travolta, a rising newcomer, was wearing tight pants in the movie "Grease." The acclaim for Mr. Dreyfuss was over his portrayal of a struggling actor in "The Goodbye Girl," a performance that won him the Oscar in 1978. In those years he was at the top of everyone's A-list, winning raves for his work in such 70's hits as "American Graffiti," "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

But that was then. That was before his profile practically slipped under the horizon and, except for a brief comeback 10 years ago in "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," pretty much remained there.

So last month more than a few eyebrows in Los Angeles arched toward the ceiling at the news that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association had nominated Richard Dreyfuss (along with Ian McKellen, Nicolas Cage, Sean Penn and Anthony Hopkins) for the Golden Globe for best dramatic actor of 1995. And this for a performance that most of America had not even seen.

What got the press group's attention was Mr. Dreyfuss's role as a music teacher in "Mr. Holland's Opus," a movie that opens nationally on Friday but that played in Los Angeles late last year to qualify for this year's awards, including the Oscars. In addition, Mr. Dreyfuss has crept back into public consciousness with a small, showy part as a conservative politician in "The American President."

"Mr. Holland's Opus" marks the first time Mr. Dreyfuss has been given a chance to carry a movie since "Moon Over Parador," a 1988 comedy that led not to the promised land but to a forgettable string of charmless comedies like "Let It Ride" (1989) and "Another Stakeout" (a 1993 sequel to the 1987 buddy movie "Stakeout") or the forgettable 1994 thriller "Silent Fall."

Mr. Dreyfuss's stock in trade had been making vain, pompous, overbearing, whiny or supercilious characters (think "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz," "Tin Men," "Close Encounters") seem not only heretofore but likeable. An increasing segment of the moviegoing audience, however, found Mr. Dreyfuss's smug characterizations less and less enchanting. What seemed like guileless self-confidence in his youth came across as shrill self-importance as he grew older.

He also developed a reputation as a difficult interview subject, and began crashing his car under the influ-

ence of drugs and alcohol. A 1991 profile of the actor observed that "as the accolades piled up, so did the unfavorable stories about his hrash personality and frequently manic behavior." An Esquire magazine story a few years earlier carried the headline "Richard Dreyfuss — Out of Control."

Though he admits to a healthy quotient of "intellectual arrogance" in his youth, Mr. Dreyfuss these days — at least in an interview — comes off as self-deprecating, curious and keenly interested in talking about any subject other than himself, preferably politics. His interest in national affairs and Middle Eastern politics dovetails with another facet of his life, his producing partnership with Judith Rutherford James. Dreyfuss/James Productions was the executive producer of the movies "Quiz Show" and "Once Around" and the recent TNT movie "Kissinger and Nixon."

"His personality is imprinted on everything he does," says the actor James Woods, who has been his friend for 20 years, though he characterizes Mr. Dreyfuss as a "flaming liberal." "He's very vocal, very opinionated, very intellectual and very committed. That can rub some people the wrong way."

Mr. Dreyfuss is the first to acknowledge that many people think he is annoying as an actor. But he blames that on the sort of roles he has played. "A part of my persona has been a wise guy," he says. "I once read a review that said, 'I liked this movie but I wanted to slap Mr. Dreyfuss across the face.' You can't please everybody." The trick, of course, is to please enough people so you can keep working.

As Mr. Dreyfuss's popularity sagged, so did his self-esteem. The 48-year-old actor, who resorted to drugs and alcohol as a younger man, went through a severe personal and professional crisis three years ago, experiencing a level of self-doubt and creative frustration his characters have rarely dealt with.

"I flipped out," he says. His marriage collapsed around the same time. He and his wife, Jeramie (they have three school-age children), were divorced last year.

"I felt, who wants me?" recalls Mr. Dreyfuss, who was sitting in stocking feet in an armchair at his New York pied-à-terre, a suite at the Sherry Netherland Hotel. He treats an interviewer like an old friend, and there is no trace of the pomposity that plagued his youth. Instead he offers every hospitality — lunch? a drink?

Born in Flatbush, Brooklyn (his father was a lawyer, his mother a homemaker and peace activist) and raised in Bayside, Queens, and Beverly Hills, Mr. Dreyfuss found that ambition and a passion for acting were the two pillars of his life. When they disappeared, he says, "it was

scary and lonely, as if I had lost a friend. I didn't know who to talk to about it."

With his latest role in "Mr. Holland's Opus," he gets the chance to play a young man much like himself in the 1960's and in the process try to tap into a reservoir of audience good will.

"This movie will serve as a reminder of how brilliant he is," says Sharon Bialy, the casting director on "Mr. Holland's Opus." "It will put him back on everybody's A-list."

While some reviewers in Los Angeles dismissed the film as "schmaltz," most praised Mr. Dreyfuss's performance. "In one of his best roles in some time, Dreyfuss has firm control over the movie," the Hollywood Reporter said. Emanuel Levy, writing about the film in weekly Variety, said, "Dreyfuss... here he acquires himself with a sensitive, honorable performance..."

But he says it was not until last spring, six or seven months after filming was completed for "Mr. Holland's Opus," that he was able to pull himself out of his creative malaise by appearing in the play "Three Hotels" opposite Christine Lahti at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. "That play saved my life," Mr. Dreyfuss says. "I remember walking off stage after the first preview and telling Christine, that's the first time in four years I've enjoyed my work."

"Mr. Holland's Opus," a Disney Hollywood film, did not exactly have "career rehabilitator" stamped all over it. Its director, Stephen Herek, was previously known for the youth-oriented comedies "The Mighty Ducks" and "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

Mr. Dreyfuss says he took the role because "nobody had ever asked me to play an entire life before."

The movie ranges from 1965 to the present. Over that period, Mr. Holland sacrifices career and ambition — his dream is to write a symphony — to serve his students and to devote more time and energy to his family, including a deaf son. On retirement, he realizes that his real opus is not what he has managed to scribble on sheet music between band practice and school board meetings but his contribution to other people's lives during a long career.

"I always play characters from real life," Mr. Dreyfuss says. "You know your limitations. I'm not going to go running over cars, jumping onto horses, throwing myself through glass doors 26 floors up. I'm going to do what I do. I've never yearned for those parts because it's kind of silly."

Glenn Headly, who plays his wife, was a schoolgirl when Mr. Dreyfuss appeared in "American Graffiti" and "Jaws" and admits she was "a little worried" about the age differ-



ence. "The first time I saw him with his hair dyed, I said, 'Wow, brown hair really does something for you.'"

Mr. Dreyfuss is also blessed with a face that bears scant evidence of age or ill-spent youth. There is barely a detectable wrinkle. (On the other hand, he found it "disconcerting" that virtually no makeup was required to make him look like a convincing 60-year-old man.)

The actor, who has been prematurely gray since his 20's, returned to that color for "Night Falls on Manhattan," a forthcoming courtroom movie written and directed by Sidney Lumet in which he plays a civil rights lawyer. A fan of Mr. Dreyfuss's work in "Duddy Kravitz" and "Close Encounters," Mr. Lumet says he needed an actor who could display intelligence, passion for his work, and when needed, courtroom theatricality similar to that of William Kunstler, on whom the character is based.

"He's really very intelligent," says Mr. Lumet. "Very often, actors will use that kind of intelligence to keep a part at a distance emotionally, but he doesn't. He uses it as a

stimulant to his emotions. That is an exciting process to watch."

Topics of conversation with Mr. Dreyfuss veer from the latest wireless laptop modems to the death of Yitzhak Rabin. An outspoken supporter of Israel, Mr. Dreyfuss was in the Shery Netherland suite when he learned that the Israeli Prime Minister had been assassinated. "It was a surprisingly deep blow," says the actor, who attended a vigil at the Israeli Consulate later that day.

Lately, Mr. Dreyfuss has been thinking a lot about his own mortality. He has had three near-fatal crashes in the last 30 years; in 1982, he was charged with driving under the influence of drugs after crashing into a tree. Last January, he had another collision. Though not religious, he now says he has "had too many inadvertent conversations with God in cars."

"I recently realized," he continues, "that there is this part of me, that secular person that I am, which will never be whole unless I deal with the spiritual side of my life."

Of what he describes as his search for inner serenity, he says, "When I was younger, I took drugs, and I tried to ignore it, but that's what I've always wished for. My salvation is the time that I work."

And it's time, he says, to shake things up a little in that department. Until his turn as the maddening candidate in "The American President," he had not portrayed anything remotely resembling a villain on screen. He admits to being surprised at his newfound desire to play "an out-and-out villain." He has also recently tried his hand at directing. Immediately after "Mr. Holland's Opus," he directed a production of "Hamlet" at the Birmingham Repertory Theater in England and a short film for Showtime, "Our Love Is Here to Stay," starring Anne Archer and Carrie Fisher. "He's part of that baby-boomer group finding they still have a lot of different horizons," says Ms. James, his producing partner.

Like his character in "Mr. Holland's Opus," Mr. Dreyfuss is ready to take stock of his life. "My opus is my body of work," he says. "When I stop doing this, I want to look back and say, 'I have a good body of work.' So far I have a pretty good one."

Siren Who Sang of Herself

By NEIL STRAUSS

IN the acclaimed new documentary "Nico Icon," friends and relatives of the singer, model and actress Nico describe her as "crazy," "terrifying," "a freak," "a junkie" and "desperate." But they also call her a "dreaming," "boundless," "pure beauty" and "goddess." Which raises the questions: Just who was Nico? And, in the 49 years she lived, did anybody really know her?

Born Christa Paffgen, Nico appeared in such films as Federico Fellini's "Dolce Vita" in 1960 and Andy Warhol's "Chelsea Girls" in 1966. But she remains best known for singing in the influential rock group the Velvet Underground at the behest of Warhol. It wasn't her voice that got her the job. It was her presence: tall, icy, Teutonic and beautiful. But her singing — deep, mechanical and heavily accented with long-drawn-out consonants — soon grew as striking as her looks.

Apparently Nico was like the Koippon, empty human shells in tabular mystology. Many people in the documentary say there was nothing beneath her surface: no love, no interests, no cares. There was only a wish to annihilate the one thing that attracted everyone to her: her beauty. And that she succeeded in doing, with years of heroin addiction and self-abuse.

For Susanne Ofteringer, the German director of the documentary, Nico was a subject that inspired neither complete devotion nor repulsion. Nico's singing could be beautiful and haunting (as on her spine-tingling solo album "The Marble Index"). It could be pathetic and tuneless (as on her capella version of "All Tomorrow's Parties" on her "Do or Die" live album). Similarly, her life was both glamorous (Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen wrote songs inspired by encounters with her) and repulsive (she took LSD while pregnant with her son, Ari, said to be fathered by Alain Delon, and turned Ari on to heroin when he was 2).

"I hadn't really idolized or known much about Nico when I started making the film," Ms. Ofteringer said, sitting in the office of Film Forum, where the movie had its New York premiere. "But the story became more and more fascinating,



Andy Warhol, left, and Nico, right, with cast members from "The Chelsea Girls."

especially when I discovered the less charming sides of her character. I think that the audience also goes through a process of loving her and hating her, and it changes all the time."

This is true not only of those peering in on Nico's life in "Nico Icon" but of those who knew her before she died in 1988 of a cerebral hemorrhage, caused by falling off a bicycle on the Spanish island of Ibiza.

"When I did the research and met all the people, it was like hot and cold showers of emotion all the time," Ms. Ofteringer said. "All the people I talked to had been really badly hurt by her in one way or another. But they all still loved her in a way. It's strange how someone can have an impact like that."

Nico's impact on Ms. Ofteringer, who is 34, came early in the director's life, when she heard a song on the radio and the D.J. mentioned that the singer, Nico, had been born in Cologne. "Being a teen-ager in Cologne myself, that was pretty exciting," Ms. Ofteringer said.

She wrote the script while at graduate school in Cologne and then went on to produce "Nico Icon," her first full-length film, for German television. It soon became clear that the

movie deserved a wider audience. The timing of the film couldn't be better, because it coincides with the publication of two new books about Nico ("Nico: The Life and Lies of an Icon," by Richard Wilts and "Nico: The End," by James Young) as well as the release of a boxed set of music by the Velvet Underground.

Like "Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey," Steve M. Martin's recent documentary about the instrument inventor Leon Theremin, "Nico Icon" is captivating not because of its visual style (it was shot on video, and hence is grainy and at times amateurish) but because of its fascinating subject and candid interviews. It opens with quick flashes of Nico reveling in her blood, manicured beauty and, in the next scene, shows her singing in the depths of her decline — skin hanging on her face, hair now jet black, one hand desperately clutching a cigarette and eyes darkly ringed with exhaustion and smeared makeup. How Nico turned from light to dark is the plot of the documentary's next 70 minutes, a kind of nonfiction companion to "Georgia," the new movie about the decline of a drug-addicted singer.

Interviewed along the way are Nico's aunt Helma Wolff, who characterizes her niece's upbringing in Nazi Germany; Mr. Delon's mother, Edith Boulogne, who raised Ari even though doing so meant that her own son would never speak to her again (he continues to deny that he is the father); the former Velvet Underground members Sterling Morrison and John Cale; the former Andy Warhol associates Paul Morrissey, Viva and Billy Name; and, during the film's climax, Nico's troubled son, Ari Boulogne, now 30.

"Ari was difficult to track down," Ms. Ofteringer said. "When I met him in Paris, he was very reluctant. I think he felt like it could be an invasion of his privacy. But when he realized what my approach was, he really helped. When I started the research and read all the obituaries written about Nico when she died, I thought it was a shame that she was always described as the muse of famous men and all you saw was this enumeration of all the celebrities she had affairs with. I thought she was worth remembering for her own work, and that's how I convinced people to collaborate with the film."

LISTEN-CLOZE-Y

By CATY MILLHAUSER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

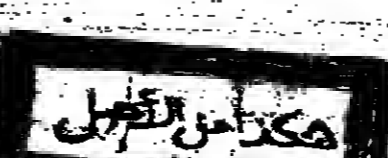
- Use a juicer
- Kind of polish
- With a bow, to Stern
- Ill-suited
- Laura's lover in "La Gioconda"
- Turkey neighbor
- Tom Arnold's in-laws, once
- City on the Arkansas
- Francis Bacon question by Shakespeare?
- Doctor
- Long-winded speeches
- Utensils for overgrilled steaks?
- Hagar the Horrible's wife
- Captain once played by Omar Sharif
- H.S.T. was one
- Thalia and sisters
- Items to be cut
- Space for a ship
- Bette Davis's era?
- South American ostriches
- Provoke
- Casts
- "Up, up and away" company
- Knack
- Bhefin et al.
- Elm City collegians
- One of TV's favorites
- What "vov" means
- Regarding
- Train, as some sheep?
- Kind of couch
- E.R. cases
- They-loop the Loop
- Cinque follower
- How some vaccines are given
- Orchard worm's average diet?
- Decided collectively
- Sal of "Exodus"
- Violinist Leopold
- Blacktop
- "Dallas" mom
- "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- Year in Leo D's reign
- 1985 Tony winner for "Marat/Sade"
- Model T
- Contemporary
- English actor Davenport
- Niagara barrel-rider's eastern?
- Puppet
- Emits powerful beams
- Models
- Dropped in the drink
- 1938 film site
- King Arthur's father

DOWN

- Like some dogs' coats?
- The Beatles' "Her Standing There"
- Makes lace
- Like Chianti
- Fleming and Guggenheim, e.g.
- Bigger than big
- Fairy
- Wipe out
- Nolan Ryan team
- Emulated a raven
- One of a mythical emerald
- Powhatan, e.g.
- The Galloping Gourmet
- Afghan's neighbor
- Lingine topper
- 1969 Gates novel
- Worked off some pot perhaps
- Sweetish poet Karlfeldt
- Difficult
- Have enough with
- Noticed by P.M.
- 50's baroque quality
- Wine/grape quality
- Destined for success
- My "Rock Man"
- Mystic
- Austrian
- Manicist
- In the
- League?
- Wahine's accessory
- Scattered
- Sans resources
- ski
- Sheraton competitor
- Champagne "high"
- Some native New Yorkers
- Libra's stone, maybe
- Bowling alley button
- Tabla player's music
- Roosevelt Island transport
- Come across as
- Tanning target
- Start of something big?
- A.A.R.P. members
- Perfumery name
- Perfect
- Shawin descendant
- Actress Chase
- Nintendo rival
- Walk destination
- Take it out for a spin
- Dormancy
- Afternoon hour
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EMO	BEADY	ACAT	ACAT
ELMURTON	PRADO	JOET	JOET
PLATON	ANNO	DEFERRER	DEFERRER
BLIND	BLOPPER	DAORJ	DAORJ
TERRYSON	COMS	MINNIE	MINNIE
EGOE	LOTEL	SANTINIZES	SANTINIZES
DEEP	BRIGON	FAT	AMIE
EMERSON	VIOD	RYAN	RYAN
STUBS	WESSIE	PADDA	PADDA
LEA	BUKSO	WILLING	WILLING
DATA	BUKSO	ABEL	YUCA
OVER	MANER	GOVE	SLAT
PERT	DANER	SWAY	TIRE





Leopold Page (formerly Poldek Pfefferberg), left, puts his arm around his rescuer Oskar Schindler in 1962.

The man who helped secure Oskar's Oscar

Years before 'Schindler's List' was even created, Leopold Page spoke to Steven Spielberg about the man who saved his and others' lives. Tom Tugend reports from Los Angeles



Leopold Page arrives on the set of 'Schindler's List' and meets, for the first time, Jonathan Sagalle, who plays him in the film. (David James)

LEOPOLD Page is sitting in the cluttered office of his leather-goods warehouse, rummaging through cartons of scrawled thank-you notes from schoolchildren and ornate testimonial scrolls. He extracts an official decree from the mayor of Reno, designating April 2, 1995, as Leopold and Mila Page Day in the Nevada city.

berg in Cracow, Poland, and known to most everyone as Poldek. "I was jittery, because I had promised Spielberg, when I met him 10 years earlier, that if he made *Schindler's List*, he would get an Oscar for Oskar," Page recalls. "When they announced that Spielberg had won as best director, I jumped so high, and when he talked about Mila and me, we were crying. When they said that *Schindler's List* was the best picture, everybody was crying."

ences soon learned that when Page starts speaking, nobody stops him. He happily recalls one occasion last April, when he and author Kenneally were asked to participate in a Holocaust memorial observance by the US National Security Agency in Washington. The observance was broadcast across the world through the Armed Forces Network. "When I talked to the organizers, they said I would have 20 minutes to speak," Poldek recalls. "I said, 'That's impossible. I can't even say hello in that time.' So the NSA director, a vice admiral, agreed to give up his 20 minutes to me. In the end, I talked for an hour, and the peo-

Expropriation for commercial area acceptable, court says

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the former president, Justice Meir Shamgar, and justices Dov Levin, Eliezer Goldberg, Theodore Orr, Elyahu Mazza, Zevi Tal and Dalia Dorner, in the matter of *Muazzan Hassan Zaki Nusseibeh and others, petitioners, versus the Finance Minister and the State of Israel, respondents (F.H./H.C.) 4466/94*.

ods were relevant: from the expropriation to the plan's confirmation; and from confirmation to the lodging of the petition. The second period, which was less than three years, was clearly not too long for executing a complicated plan covering hundreds of dunams. Moreover, any delay caused by the first period, though long, was now neutralized by the plan's confirmation and the intention of exploiting it fully.

that all the conditions were fulfilled, and he had not done so. It was said that Nusseibeh's lot was to be used for commercial purposes. However, it was not part of the commercial complex built on the expropriated land, but was in an area occupied by Arab residents, while public buildings were to be erected on its western border. The minister wants to sell that lot, with the three others adjoining it - totally about two dunams - for commercial purposes; altogether, the proposition will be more "attractive."

IN January 1968, the finance minister, acting under sections 5 and 7 of the Mandatory Lands Ordinance (Acquisition for Public Purposes) of 1943, gave notice of the expropriation of 4,485 dunams for the development of Jerusalem after its unification. Of that area, 435 dunams on the border between East and West Jerusalem, included 610 square meters (0.61 dunam) belonging to the petitioners.

He agreed, he said, with Justice Orr's emphasis in the first hearing that the public purpose for the expropriation was to establish a commercial center over the whole area. It was not practical in this context to consider each lot individually. The whole area had to be regarded as one unit for expropriation purposes.

The transaction proposed, she said, belongs to the market and not to expropriation. Moreover, it was not part of the minister's original purpose. Nusseibeh wants to develop this small lot himself since it is right next to his filling station. There was no adequate reason to deprive him of it. That would be the situation anyway, and after a delay of nearly 30 years, the justice of his case is even more glaring. She proposed, therefore, that the court's previous decision be confirmed.

New residential suburbs were planned, homes and public buildings were erected, and roads were paved. In 1986, the municipality's Planning and Building Committee deposited an outline scheme covering 435 dunams designated for commercial use. This area included Nusseibeh's lot which was completely enclosed by three other adjoining lots, and which abutted another lot he owned on which he operated a gasoline station. The plan was approved by the District Planning Commis-

Justice Goldberg, delivering the first judgment, dealt at the outset with the onus of proof. Had the legality of the original expropriation still been in dispute, he said, the minister would have had to justify his action. Now, however, it was for the petitioners to show that excessive delay justified its cancellation. In his view they had not done so.

JUSTICE MAZZA adhered to his original opinion that the public purpose on which the expropriation was based had no connection with Nusseibeh's lot. It was for the minister to prove that connection, and the above Basic Law made that burden all the heavier. This he had failed to do. He proposed that the previous decision be confirmed.

EARTHY CONCERNS

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

GETTING rid of hazardous waste is one of the industrialized nations' biggest headaches. The very nations that produce the largest amounts of these dangerous substances are also the nations which have the strictest laws concerning their disposal. In some of these countries the local strictures make it virtually impossible to get rid of the mountains of dangerous leftover material that accumulates. For more than two decades, the industrialized nations managed by simply shipping their waste products to developing countries where there were few, if any, environmental health laws. Some of the waste was sold for recycling, but most was simply buried or dumped in the host country, where impoverished governments welcomed the income from providing this service. However, recently awareness has brought about a situation where even the poorest countries are unwilling to accept materials so inimical to the health of their citizens. Therefore, the International Basel Convention of 1992 ruled that toxic waste could only be exported with the explicit consent of the importing government and that only hazardous materials destined for recycling could be

exported by the 25 members that signed the convention, all of them from developed countries and collectively known as the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Under this new classification there is nothing to prohibit private entrepreneurs from importing materials from the new "green list" for recycling, even without the explicit consent of their own government. Most of these private importers operate recycling facilities that are substandard, if not outright dangerous to public health. According to one OECD expert "there are no recycling facilities in the Third World that are not dangerous and do not pose a hazard to human life."

In addition, some developing countries say that the affluent EU states are putting undue pressure on them by tying trade agreements to commitments for the ac-

ceptance of toxic waste. This means, in many cases, that if a country wants to sell its exportable products to members of the EU then it will have to accept their toxic materials. So far, the international bodies haven't come up with any acceptable solution to these developments.

LAW REPORT

ASHER FELIX LANDAU

It was now fully accepted that all laws were to be interpreted in the light of the Basic Law, recognizing the constitutional basic rights which it enshrined. A new balance was to be devised between the right of expropriation and the rights of the property owner. Expropriation was obviously a violation of the owner's right to his property; Uoder section 8 of the Basic Law, the violation was only valid if authorized by a Law, that it befits the values of the State of Israel, that it was exacted for a proper purpose, and that it was to an extent no greater than required.

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Research Grant application forms are available from the office of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies c/o Daniel Ben-Natan, Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem; Tel: (02)883367, Fax: (02)826267. The completed forms in 7 copies must be submitted by February 29, 1996. Applications can be submitted in Hebrew, English or French.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1996

Shohat leaves on tour of Far East today

Post Business Staff

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat is scheduled to leave today on a two-week trip to the Far East.

During the trip he is expected to sign bilateral economic pacts with his Korean, Thai, Vietnamese and Indian counterparts.

In Thailand and India, Shohat will sign agreements to prevent double taxation.

Shohat's visit to Vietnam, where he is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and local business and financial leaders, will be the first ever by

an Israeli minister.

In India, Shohat will be an official guest of the government during its Republic Day celebrations.

Shohat will also visit Hong Kong, where he is scheduled to meet with Secretary General Donald Tsang and local Jewish business leaders.

In Korea, the finance minister will be meeting, among others, the heads of the Daewoo and Lucky Goldstar conglomerates, and Bank of Korea Governor Kyung Shik Lee.

Cabinet approves budget correction

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE government yesterday approved the fiscal measures proposed last week by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The move passed by a vote of 15 in favor, four against and one abstention.

The measures comprise a total of NIS 1.3 billion in budget transfers from individual ministries to finance unexpected expenditures in last year's budget, particularly those stemming from the military's redeployment in the West Bank and the enactment of reforms in the health care system.

Coupled with last week's 15 percent hike in the gasoline tax, these steps are aimed at reducing the budget deficit to 2.5% of Gross Domestic Product.

The package, which last week

was fiercely attacked by half the ministers, was opposed yesterday only by Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Nahir, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon abstained, as he did in last week's vote.

However, the largest cuts were in the ministries of housing, education and defense, whose heads all supported the plan.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat seemed satisfied at the end of the meeting, and said he was confident the approved measures would help the government

meet the budgetary targets it had set itself for fiscal 1996.

The package's opponents introduced an alternative deal. Presented by Tzaban, it included cuts totaling NIS 650m.; a 10% or NIS 830m. cut in the government's participation in employers' taxes; and the appointment of a committee which would study the state of tax collection and make recommendations for its improvement.

"It is inconceivable that we sit idly in face of reports indicating a decline in tax revenues," said Tzaban. "Black capital and tax evasion require examination," he said.

He added that experts estimate the magnitude of so-called black capital at up to \$40b.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ministries to tighten supervision of pesticide level on produce: The Agriculture Ministry has decided to tighten supervision and check pesticide levels on vegetables sold on the local market, following a Yediot Aharonot survey Friday that revealed the presence of excessive quantities. The ministry said it will place stricter supervision on testing of strawberries and herbs, grown here and abroad.

"Growers with produce containing excessive levels of materials forbidden for growth or a high level of remnants will be prohibited from marketing their products on the market or will have their produce destroyed," said Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Israel can export produce to Czech Republic duty free: The Czech Republic will not subject agricultural produce from Israel to custom duties following an agreement reached between the Israeli and Czech Agriculture ministries. The Czech Agriculture Ministry said it hopes a growth in Israeli imports will lead to a lowering of fruit and vegetable retail prices.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Gas station owners petition against Turbovich: The Association of Gas Station Owners yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against a recent decision by supervisor of monopolies Yoram Turbovich that only 65 contracts between gas stations and the major fuel companies are illegal.

In August 1993, Turbovich had ruled that all 450 of the 49-year contracts between stations and companies were illegal, because they effectively prevented competition.

However, the issue has been tied up in court since then by the fuel companies, so Turbovich finally changed his decision in an effort to resolve the dispute, the petition said. However, the petition charged, the old decision is the legally correct one, and therefore should stand.

Evelyn Gordon

Macromedia files suit against Aloda: Software leader Macromedia, through distributor Quicksort, has filed suit against Israel computer company Aloda. Macromedia claims the company has distributed pirate copies of graphics program Freehand in order to promote sales.

Rachel Neiman

Mashov Marketing has transferred all activities connected with Novell, including service agreements and customer support, to Com-Line Computer Communications.

Rachel Neiman

Eldor will install the new rapid communications network at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, connecting 1,000 terminals. Eldor will earn \$150,000 on the first stage of the project, connecting 300 terminals.

Rachel Neiman

MKS approve relocation of oil tankers at Pi Geilit site: The proposal to relocate the oil tankers at the Pi Geilit site near Herzliya was unanimously approved by the Knesset yesterday.

Rachel Neiman

New savings plan for higher education fees: American Israel Bank, a subsidiary of Bank Hapoalim, has announced a new 10-year saving plan designed to help customers finance higher education studies.

The plan encourages customers to save before entering college and while studying, and to receive a loan which is due to be paid back only after the student completes his studies.

Galit Lipkis Beck

NetManage shares fall 25% in NY

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELRON CEO Uzi Galil said his sale of local software designer NetManage shares last week, which contributed to that stock's dramatic plunge on Wall Street, was not an extraordinary move and in no way indicated a lack of faith on his part in NetManage.

Against a background of overall declines in the high-tech sector last week on Wall Street, NetManage shares fell 25 percent on Friday. Warnings had already been issued a week earlier by Smith Barney analyst Elliot Prince. By Friday the share had fallen from a high of \$28.3 two months ago to \$14.

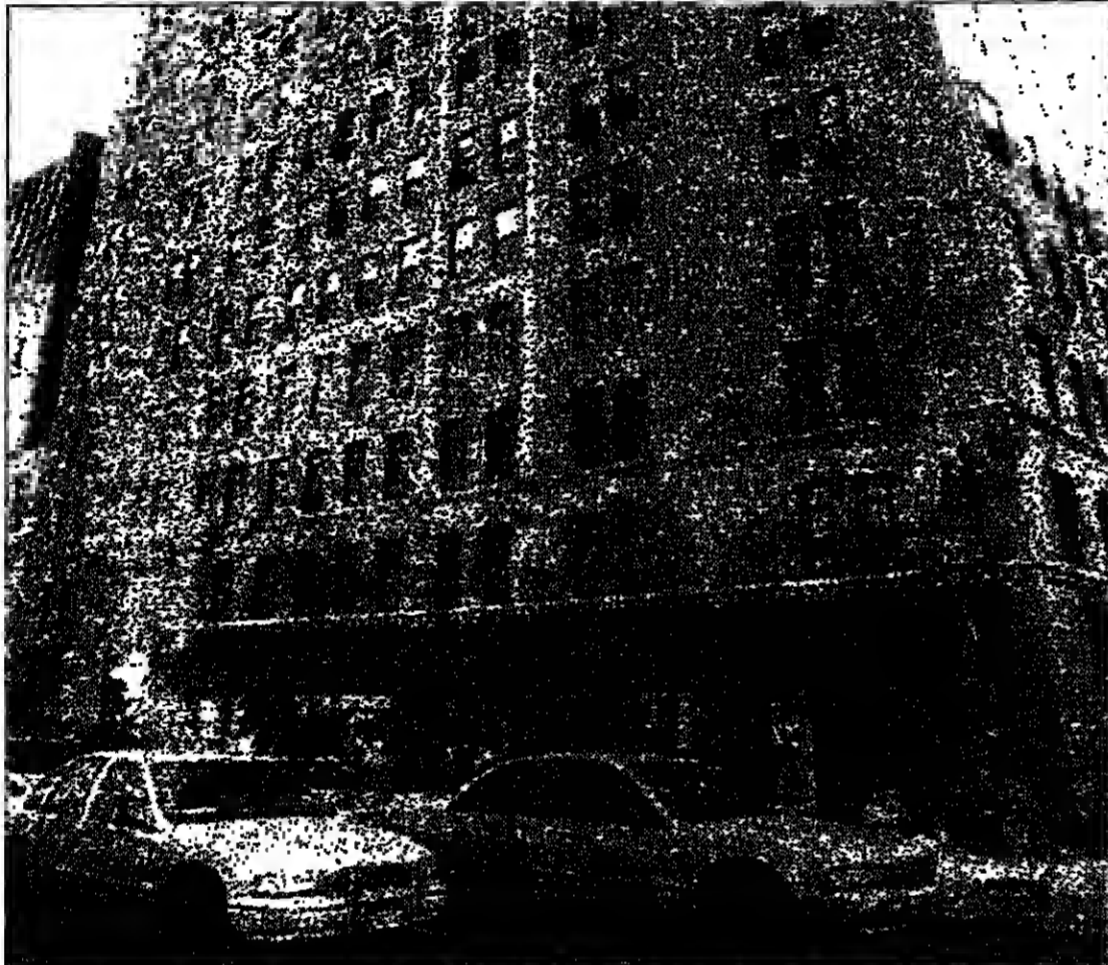
Ha'aretz yesterday said shares had been sold by Alon and principle shareholder Galil.

"I have great belief in them, and their results speak for themselves," Galil told *The Jerusalem Post*. "What happened [last week] was not as a result of company activity but of things surrounding the company," he said.

On Friday, NetManage released a profit warning, stating quarterly earnings were expected to be lower than that of the same quarter in 1994. Following the announcement the share tumbled again, closing at \$10.5.

"While we had a record bookings quarter, we were not able to recognize some of those bookings as revenue due to our accounting policies," NetManage CEO Zvi Alon said, adding that overall business was solid and did not see any fundamental changes in the market. "We have the technology and products to allow our continued growth and success in this exciting market."

Net profits for the first nine months of 1995 were \$88.7m. Revenues are expected to be between \$30m. and \$32m., 30% higher than in the parallel period. Annual revenues are expected to be some \$188 to \$120m., 90% higher than in 1994. Net profits for 1994 were \$16.4m.



Barney's flagship store on 7th Avenue in lower Manhattan and the original Barney's New York, the legendary retailer founded in 1923 by Barney Pressman, has filed for bankruptcy protection. (Reuters)

State loans increased for housing in priority areas

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Housing Ministry has increased the supplementary loans granted to those who buy apartments in priority areas.

The ministry said the move is an effort to unload the country's growing stock of unsold apartments in areas of low demand and to make it easier for low-income segments of the population to buy a house.

The ministry announced yesterday it has adjusted government assistance to those who buy apartments or build new homes in national priority area A to NIS 60,000, including NIS 30,000 as a grant.

The grant was adjusted on January 1. Previously, the government gave NIS 50,000, including NIS 25,000 as a grant and the remainder as a loan.

In national priority area B, the government has kept its assistance at NIS 50,000, but has raised the grant to NIS 20,000 from NIS 15,000.

The location assistance is available, in addition to government mortgage loans to the eligible population. In general, national priority A areas include all borderline towns and the Negev, with the exception of the Beersheba area.

National Priority B areas include the east and central parts of the Galil, from Acre north and also the Beersheba area.

"The special assistance to help people buy a new apartment provides a solution to the development of construction in the Galil and Negev, and is in accordance with policy to encourage development of national priority areas," Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said.

About 51,000 government mortgage loans were granted last year, compared with 52,500 in 1994, according to preliminary data for last year.

The ministry also reported a 70 percent growth in preferential mortgages for those in neighborhoods in the rehabilitation category.

The ministry reported a significant drop in the number of new immigrants that have exercised their rights to government mortgages, mainly because most families have already taken advantage of their rights and already own an apartment.

The special loans are for 25 years, at 80% linkage and 4% interest, compared with bank mortgages at 5.5% interest on average and partial linkage to the Consumer Price Index.

Germany's CDU launches plan to boost job creation, growth

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) this weekend hatched a long-term plan to boost job creation and economic growth after Germany's jobless rate hit a post-World War II high of nearly 10 percent.

The package followed closely a 12-point plan to ease the jobs crisis released on Friday by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), which urged abolition of overtime and a swift reduction of additional salary costs.

CDU General Secretary Peter Hintze, speaking on Saturday at a strategy meeting in Mayschoss, dismissed the SPD's response to the jobs crisis as "fanciful" and said the CDU wanted a long-term "action program for growth and employment."

Hintze said the CDU aimed in the medium term to reduce social security contributions and accelerate corporate tax reform and called on unions and employers to reach responsible wage deals over the next few years.

However, both parties praised efforts by engineering union IG Metall to push through its "Alliance for Jobs" proposal in which workers offered to accept modest wage rises over the next three years in return for the creation of 300,000 new jobs.

The proposal got its first boost on Saturday, when carmaker Volkswagen AG said it would add 1,000 new jobs in Germany this year - unaccustomed news in a country where reports of job-shedding plans are becoming the norm.

"Finally, a company is taking the Alliance for Jobs seriously!" the mass-circulation *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper commented, which splashed the news across its front page.

Job creation has become a hot issue for German politicians hit last week by a slew of grim reports showing unemployment up to nearly 10%, slower growth and a 1995 budget deficit above the Maastricht limit for membership in a planned European Union single currency.

Hintze said he was sympathetic to IG Metall's "Alliance for Jobs" proposal, which has Kohl's backing, and is increasingly viewed by other unions as a test of the limits of union-employer consensus in Germany.

However, unions remained pessimistic about the outcome of the "Alliance for Jobs" talks, which closed their first round in early January without agreement and they warned that failure would lead to harsh conflict in future wage talks.

IG Metall leader Klaus Zwickel last week threatened that the next round of talks, which begin on Thursday, will be the last unless employers make a conciliatory offer.

Werner Stumpfe, who heads the engineering employers' federation Gesamtmetall, told the *Spiegel* news magazine that employers had already offered to cooperate with workers on setting job creation goals, but had not had a response.

Stumpfe said IG Metall's demands for 100,000 new jobs this year were "totally unrealistic."

Herbert Mai, head of the public services and transport union OeTV, told *Bild am Sonntag* he could not rule out strike action should the talks collapse, while other union leaders said their members would be "embittered" if the talks fail.

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PRIME פריים
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Date: 11.1.96
Purchase Price: 108.18
Redemption Price: 106.74

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(מטרה) TARGET מטרה
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 11.1.96
Purchase Price: 145.94
Redemption Price: 143.73

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$1.96)				
Currency (Deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.825	4.825	4.825
Polish zloty (210,000,000)	4.500	4.500	4.500	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.250	2.125	2.125	2.275
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.375
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.1.96)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.9194	3.9792	3.919	3.919	3.5483
German mark	3.0953	3.1455	3.04	3.1220	3.1220
French franc	2.1453	2.1830	2.10	2.22	2.1655
Japanese yen (100)	4.7783	4.8224	4.69	4.92	4.8180
Swiss franc	0.8259	0.8390	0.81	0.85	0.8311
Italian lire (100)	2.9431	2.9936	2.89	3.04	2.9890
Dutch florin	1.9158	1.9498	1.88	1.98	1.9315
Swiss franc	2.9823	2.7053	2.81	2.75	2.6844
Swedish krona	0.4887	0.4783	0.46	0.49	0.4727
Norwegian krona	0.4885	0.4854	0.48	0.51	0.4824
Denmark mark	0.8547	0.8537	0.84	0.88	0.8580
Finland mark	0.7050	0.7235	0.69	0.74	0.7149
Canadian dollar	2.2732	2.2889	2.23	2.25	2.2888
Australian dollar	2.2889	2.3370	2.28	2.27	2.3211
S. African rand	0.8537	0.8886	0.77	0.87	0.8599
Belgian franc (10)	1.0457	1.0306	1.02	1.08	1.0222
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0511	3.1004	2.99	3.15	3.0768
Italian lire (100)	1.9529	1.9946	1.92	2.03	1.9801
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.25	4.55	4.3844
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.88	0.96	0.8639
ECU	3.9782	4.0484	4.85	5.08	4.0114
Irish punt	4.8574	5.0771	4.85	5.08	4.9796
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5533	2.5845	2.50	2.64	2.5739

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - Accountant General

Bids are invited for the supply of personal computers, required by government agencies located throughout Israel:

Tender No. 1/96 - Supply of Personal Computers

The systems offered should be manufactured by companies, classified in the first or second tier of the Gertner classification, at the time this tender is being written (end of 1995). Preference will be given to Israeli produced goods, in accordance with the regulations applying to the Ministry's tenders.

A meeting of suppliers will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 1996, in the meetings hall, Min. of Finance building, 1 Kaplan, Jerusalem (3rd floor) at 1:00 p.m.

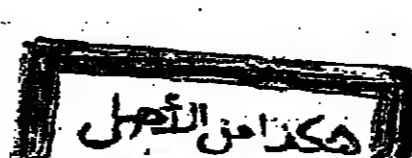
Suppliers should bring all the tender documents to this meeting. Participation in the meeting is mandatory. Please come on time.

The period in which the goods are to be supplied and the services called for in the tender provided - will commence on the day the results of the tender are announced.

Last date for submitting bids: Monday, February 26, 1996 (12 noon).

Bid forms are available from the Tenders and Buying Department, The Accountant General's Office, Room 714 or 715, Min. of Finance Building, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem. Additional details can be obtained from 02-317428, 02-317418.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.



Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.1220	Change
Sterling	NIS 4.8180	---
Mark	NIS 2.1635	---

February gold futures end session down \$2.60

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY Comex gold futures ended Friday's session down \$2.60 to close at \$396.70 after retreating below \$400 an ounce due to profit taking and after it became evident that the February \$400 call options would expire out-of-the-money, traders said.

In sympathy to gold, February Comex silver prices lost ground and settled lower on Friday for the second consecutive session. March silver ended at \$5.47 an ounce, down 6.0 cents.

Comex copper prices tumbled to close at a 15 month low due to increasing London Metals Exchange (LME) stocks.

Consumer buying of copper was reported in the market, however this was not enough to offset the much bigger sales volume, sources said.

March copper prices closed down 2.65 cents at 112.70 cents per pound.

Spot corn prices were boosted to a higher close on Friday by commercial buying.

Active exports and slow farmer selling continued to buoy prices, traders said. March corn closed up 5/4 at \$3.62 3/4 per bushel.

March wheat futures closed up 9/4 at \$4.98 3/4 on Friday on talk that China had intended to buy up to one million tonnes of US wheat.

This rumor could not be confirmed because the USDA offices have been closed most of last week due to bad weather.

Prices were also supported by concerns of warm dry weather moving into the US great plains hard red winter wheat region.

Spot soybean prices were boosted to a higher close on Friday on rumors that China was looking to purchase US soybeans and soyoil.

The January contract closed up 7/4 at \$7.33 per bushel.

Speculative buying and short coverings eased Cscoc world sugar prices up to close higher on Friday, traders said. The most active March contract closed up 0.06 cent to 11.79 cents per pound.

Nyce cotton futures closed slightly firmer on Friday, with the March contract rising 0.18 cent to close at 82.65 cents per pound.

Trading closed early due to yet another snowstorm in the US northeast. Trading was range-bound ahead of the 1995/6 USDA crop estimate which is due out tomorrow.

Cscoc March coffee ended 0.35 cent weaker on Friday to close at 102.70 cents.

The market is uncertain ahead of this week's producer talks in Brazil and London. There is a possibility that the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) will consider banning exports in order to bolster world prices.

Speculative and industry buying pushed Cscoc cocoa prices to a higher close on Friday with the active March contract ending up \$6 at \$1,256 a tonne.

Courtesy of Michael Zweimer, CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Jordan approves transport agreement with Israel

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan has approved the long-awaited transport accord with Israel, officials said yesterday.

The accord was approved by the cabinet late on Saturday and is to be signed at an Israeli-Jordanian ceremony on Thursday in Aqaba.

It governs air, sea and land links, including railway connections. It also regulates the shipment of goods between Jordan and Palestinian self-rule areas.

Other agreements will also be signed in Aqaba defining the border in the Red Sea and governing scientific and cultural links.

Trade between Jordan and Israel has been hindered by the lack of a transport pact.

Under the pact, to take effect a month after the signing, bus companies will run daily shuttles between cities in the two countries.

Airlines, including air-taxi services for businessmen, will start regular 14-minute flights.

Trucks will be able to carry goods between the countries and transit each other's territories to other destinations. They will have access to ports on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

They will work to develop rail links, starting with studies on two: one linking Haifa with Irbid and another linking the countries' Dead Sea potash factories with ports to facilitate exports to Europe and Asia.

Citizens will be allowed to use

private cars to visit each other's countries and Israeli-bound visitors can use Aqaba's airport.

The accord allows Jordanian trucks to cross the Allenby bridge over the Jordan River to immediately transfer goods for Palestinian self-rule areas onto Palestinian trucks.

But Jordanian trucks carrying crude oil, cement and other imports by the Palestinian Authority from Aqaba will have direct access to areas under its control.



A woman sells hand-made Chinese Lunar New Year ribbon mobiles at a Beijing market yesterday. The arts and crafts market has expanded in recent years as a result of economic reforms. (Reuters)

France, UK compete for missile sale to Kuwait

KUWAIT (Reuters) - France's Defense Minister Charles Millon began a visit to Kuwait yesterday expected to focus on a French bid to sell naval missiles against British competition.

Millon, arriving a day after a visit by British counterpart Michael Portillo, will discuss bilateral and defense issues with the emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, diplomats said.

On Saturday, Portillo visited to lobby for the sale of Sea Skua missiles made by British Aerospace. France is offering MM-15 missiles made by Aerospatiale.

The winning weapon will be fitted to eight fast patrol boats worth \$50 million sold in Kuwait by France last year.

Indexes fall for sixth straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

RALPH DANIEL

Two-Sided Index	207.13	-0.77%
Maof Index	214.73	-0.64%

INDEXES fell for the sixth consecutive day yesterday after a boost in fuel taxes created concern about inflation and dampened hopes that the central bank would cut interest rates.

The most active issue was Bezeq, which eased one percent on NIS 1.2 million traded.

"A little disappointment among investors" about the government's moves is weighing on share prices, said Yaron Bitaru, head of research at Ofek Securities.

For the past several weeks, investors have been looking for the government to propose a plan involving lower rates, a weaker shekel and a budget cut, he said.

"What we see now is only more taxes" and the budget cuts, Bitaru said. Ofek said in a report that the cuts represented no real change in the government's spending plans. The cut amounts to less than 1% of the outlays proposed for fiscal 1996.

As a result, "we don't know if" Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel "will cut rates," he said. The Two-Sided Index fell 0.77

percent to 207.13, while the Maof Index eased 0.64% to 214.73. In the past six trading days, each index has lost 3.7%.

Of the Maof 25, only Bromine and Clal Israel advanced, rising 0.5% and 0.25% respectively.

Almost NIS 80m of shares traded yesterday, 29% below the month's average daily trading of NIS 110.7m.

Before the slide traded, stocks had reached a 20-month high. The cabinet then approved a previously announced cut of NIS 1.3 billion from the fiscal 1996 budget. And the Finance Ministry boosted fuel taxes 15%.

The government had designed the move to reduce the country's balance-of-payments deficit.

Bitaru also said investors were awaiting today's release of the Consumer Price Index, and a rise of more than 1% might bode poorly for a cut in rates.

And the decline also continued even as Salomon Brothers, in a report dated Friday, urged investors to continue putting money into the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. (Bloomberg)

Australia says trade surplus will be reached before end of decade

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australia is set to move into a surplus on its balance of trade well before the end of the decade as a result of increased exports to consumer markets in Asia, Australian Trade Minister Bob McMullan said yesterday.

McMullan painted a bullish picture for exports to the year 2000 in a Trade Outlook Statement released as campaigning steps up ahead of a federal election which must be held by May.

McMullan said the outlook was promising as Australia, which traditionally runs a trade deficit, continued to follow a new and higher growth path for exports.

The trade deficit in October was A\$114 million (US\$85 million). Exports in current price terms were expected to be about 23 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2000 compared with 19% in 1994/95 and 15% in 1982/83, McMullan said in a statement.

"There is a clear trend in the composition of trade towards a more diversified and better balanced export base," he said. "Australia will be better placed to take advantage of the rapidly growing consumer markets of Asia and Australia's vulnerability to terms of trade shocks is being reduced."

McMullan said exports of goods and services to Asia have been growing at 9.1% a year and now account for 57% of exports. Australia's aggregate share of global markets rose to 1.4% from 1.32% in the four years to 1993, he added.

"The consistent trend in the direction of trade shows Australia's increasing economic integration with East Asia and suggests Australia will continue to benefit from strong growth in the region," McMullan said. "In the past decade, non-Japan Asian exports have grown from 18% to 40% of merchandise exports."

Japan accounts for an additional 24% of merchandise exports. The Labor government's trade outlook comes just three days after the opposition coalition unveiled its trade policy in the lead up to the election.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Name	Price	% Change	Name	Price	% Change
Commercial			Afternoon		
Banks			Volume		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Price		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Price		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
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Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
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Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
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Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Price		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Price		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
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Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
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Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Change		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Leumi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
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Bank Hapoalim	124.0	-0.8	Volume		
Bank Mizrahi	124.0	-0.8	Shares		
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Newcastle pulls nine points clear

LONDON (Reuters) - Newcastle United went nine points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 1-0 win at Coventry yesterday.

Midfielder Steve Watson scored the only goal a minute before the interval when he slipped past a defender and slipped the ball under goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic.

Winger Salako, deep in the Coventry half, failed to gather a high cross from Newcastle's Frenchman David Ginola, allowing the ball to fall into Watson's path.

Newcastle, with 51 points, is nine in front of Manchester United and 10 ahead of third-placed Tottenham. It also holds a game in hand of both rivals. Coventry is fourth bottom.

Newcastle, whose away form has been poor in recent weeks in the absence of injured winger Keith Gillespie, was lucky to take all three points.

Central defender Darren Peacock had to clear the ball off the Newcastle line in the 10th minute as Coventry, unbeaten in its previous four games, threatened to overrun the visitors.

Coventry failed to punish a string of errors, the best chance coming when Salako moved inside for a crisp, low drive which Newcastle's Czech keeper Pavel Srnec saved well.

Peacock hooked on a Ginola cross for Peter Beardsley, but the England veteran's glancing header was saved by Ogrizovic at full stretch.

Newcastle's England striker Les Ferdinand drifted deep from the subsequent corner for a header which went just wide.

After the break, Coventry mounted a string of raids as new signing Noel Whelan, with three goals in five games, drove down the right and it took a good clearance to deny former Manchester United striker Dido Dudoit.

Time and time again, they got at the Newcastle defense, Beardsley heading off the line from Paul Telfer's header in the 72nd minute.

Yesterday's results: Premier League - Coventry 1, Newcastle 1; Division One - Birmingham 3, Charlton 4; Swindon 0, Norwich 1.

Late touchdown boosts Steelers past Colts

PITTSBURGH (AP) - The Pittsburgh Steelers overcame last year's failure yesterday, scoring on a 1-yard touchdown run by Bam Morris with 1:34 remaining to beat the Indianapolis Colts 20-16 and reach the Super Bowl for the first time since 1980.

After falling three yards short of the goal line and losing to the San Diego Chargers in the same game last year, the Steelers got help from a controversial first-half touchdown and stopped the Colts on the final play in the end zone to get to the NFL's title game.

Erasioing the demons of their failure against San Diego, Pittsburgh got a 37-yard completion from Neil O'Donnell to Eric Millis to the Colts 1, followed by Morris's short charge into the end zone two plays later.

Momeots earlier, O'Donnell converted a fourth-down with a 9-yard pass to Andre Hastings that kept Pittsburgh alive. Those were the kind of plays the Steelers couldn't make in their upset loss to the Chargers a year ago.

Until the late heroics, it looked like the Colts were headed for their first Super Bowl in a quarter century. Jim Harbaugh connected with Floyd Turner for a 47-yard touchdown with 8:46 to go, a play eerily reminiscent of the long pass that lifted San Diego to victory a year ago. And linebacker Quetin Coryatt dropped an easy interception on Pittsburgh's winning drive.

But just like last year, this one wasn't over, not until the final play, a play that seemed to go forever.

Harbaugh, the league's most efficient passer this season after losing his job in the spring and only regaining it when he led the Colts to two early season rallies, got the Colts to the Pittsburgh 29. With five seconds to go, his pass into a crowd in the end zone reached Aaron Bailey as he tumbled to the ground. The ball was tipped and boounced around, slowly rolling across Bailey's chest and left arm and finally touching the ground incomplete.

The Colts couldn't believe it. The Steelers, their long-frustrated fans cheering wildly and waving their trademark yellow towels, stormed the field in celebration.

"Deja vu, all over again," linebacker Greg Lloyd said. "We waited for one whole year to get this trophy. It means so much."

"I thought he caught it," Harbaugh said to one of the Steelers. "Incomplete. Great play. We're going to the Super Bowl."

O'Donnell responded. The game may be remembered for O'Donnell's touchdown pass just before the end of the first half. Scrambling to find a receiver, O'Donnell completed a 5-yard toss to Kordell Stewart with 13 seconds remaining in the half. But television replays showed Stewart had stepped out of the back of the end zone, making him ineligible and the pass incomplete. But the referee apparently did not see it, and the touchdown gave Pittsburgh a 10-6 lead at halftime.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh looks for an open receiver as he scrambles during first quarter action in the AFC Championship Game with the Pittsburgh Steelers. (Reuters)

ing their trademark yellow towels, stormed the field in celebration.

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When it was over, nearly the entire Steelers team gathered on the field, hugging and slapping hands, waving Terrible Towels and talking about the franchise's first Super Bowl trip since the Steelers' dynasty ended with a victory over the Rams in the 1980 game.

Pittsburgh's jubilation was matched by Indianapolis' stunned disappointment.

The Colts, who made the playoffs once in their first 11 years in Indianapolis, were more often a laughingstock than a title contender. They were minus their only real star, running back Marshall Faulk, out with a knee injury.

Conference Championships Pittsburgh 20, Indianapolis 16 Green Bay at Dallas Super Bowl (Jan. 28) Pittsburgh vs. Green Bay-Dallas winner

Hap. TA, Rishon, Safed pull off last-minute wins

VICTORIES in the waning seconds for Hapoel Tel Aviv, Rishon LeZion and Safed sent the respective local crowds home happy in one of the most exciting nights of the basketball season to date. Last night's slate included three blowouts as well, with Holon, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Jerusalem crushing their opponents.

Maccabi Rishon 84, Hapoel Eilat 82 Rishon LeZion didn't think it could get any better after its huge State-Cup victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv last week. They were wrong. Motti Ben-Bassat hit a last-second shot that capped a tremendous comeback sending the Rishon crowd into a frenzy, and propelling Rishon into third place in the league standings.

Rishon came out flat as a pancake against the southerners who looked like they would pick up a rare road win in what has turned into a disaster season for Effi Birnbaum's club. Dwayne Morton had a great half as Eilat surged to a 43-34 halftime lead.

Eilat was leading 56-53 with 10:00 on the clock when Danoy Gott came a three-pointer that knocked up the score. Eilat refused to back down and a few minutes later, Jotam Elich had a steal and layup that put Eilat back on top 65-60 with 5:55 remaining. It was then that Brian O'Leary displayed the ability that has shown all year as he pulled Rishon back into the game. Rishon finally tied it up with 20 seconds to go, setting the stage for Ben-Bassat's heroics.

Hapoel TA 69, Galil Elyon 68 Nissim Markovitch hit two clutch free throws with six seconds remaining as Tel Aviv picked up its third victory of the season.

The first half was ugly as both teams shot poorly as the slim 26-25 advantage that the Galil held at the half indicated.

Both teams picked up the intensity level in the second half as the game stayed evenly matched throughout. Both teams had foul trouble and were forced to go deep into their benches, and players like Meir Tapiro, and Ziv Tavor for Tel Aviv, and Alon Shein and Assaf Dotan for Galil came through.

In the end however, it came down to the two team's leaders as Markovitch and Andrew Kennedy scored several baskets down the stretch. With 25 remaining and the score tied at 67, Pancho Hodges hit only one of two from the charity stripe allowing Markovitch's two free throws to provide the difference.

Hapoel Safed 71, Bnei Herzliya 70 Safed started off strong as it jumped out to an early 11-0 lead. Herzliya battle back to tie the score at 36-all before three Melvin Neuborn free throws provided the halftime score of 39-36.

The second half started out like the first, with Safed jumping out to a 49-42 lead, before Amir Katz led Herzliya back to take a 60-57 lead with 6:57 to play. The game remained tight until the end, and with Safed clinging to a one-point advantage with 10 seconds remaining, Herzliya couldn't convert on its last possession, enabling Safed to hold on. Neuborn was outstanding, scoring 29 points while apparently doing whatever he pleased on the court. Katz had 18 for Herzliya.

Maccabi TA 102, Mac. Jerusalem 69 Jerusalem looked like a team in disarray as Zvika Sharf picked up his first win of his current tenure as coach of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Jerusalem, which underwent its second coaching change of the season over the weekend (Annon Shein taking over for Tim Shea), kept it close for the first 13 minutes of the game as Tel Aviv led 21-17. It was then that Tel Aviv's superior inside game took over, as Tom Chambers and Radovic Curic proved to be too much in what amounted to little more than a practice game for the Tel Avivians.

Exp. Jerusalem 120 Hapoel Gvat 78 Hapoel Jerusalem marched into the Jezreel Valley and thrashed Gvat to maintain its hold on first place in the league standings.

Hapoel Holon 94, Maccabi RG 71 Derrick Hamilton was outstanding as Holon powered past hapless Ramat Gan. Holon won its 50th win giving it a 500 mark.

National Basketball League

Team	W	L	Pts
1. Hapoel Jerusalem	5	1	19
2. Maccabi Tel Aviv	3	3	17
3. Hapoel Gvat	3	3	17
4. Hapoel Galil Elyon	6	4	18
5. Bnei Herzliya	6	4	18
6. Hapoel Safed	6	4	18
7. Hapoel Holon	5	5	15
8. Maccabi Jerusalem	3	7	13
9. Hapoel Eilat	3	7	13
10. Hapoel Tel Aviv	2	8	12
11. Hapoel Gvat	2	8	12
12. Maccabi Ramat Gan	1	9	11

King tied his career high for the second game in a row and now has made 19 straight shots after a 9-for-9 performance in a victory over Villanova. He and Allen combined to hit 19 off 23 shots as the Huskies (14-1, 6-0 Big East) shot 65 percent in the second half and 59 percent overall against Providence (8-6, 1-5).

Freshman Jamal Thomas led the Friars with 17 points and center Roben Garces added a career-high 16 points and 8 rebounds.

Huskies win 13th straight game

PROVIDENCE (AP) - Ray Allen scored 23 points and Kirk King added 20 on 10-for-10 shooting as No. 6 Connecticut defeated Providence 83-74 Saturday night.

The Huskies, who won for the 13th straight time, saw Providence get within 59-55 with 8:48 remaining then went on a 16-2 run to seal the game. Allen scored eight points during the decisive stretch, including a thundering overhead dunk on a fast break.

King tied his career high for the second game in a row and now has made 19 straight shots after a 9-for-9 performance in a victory over Villanova. He and Allen combined to hit 19 off 23 shots as the Huskies (14-1, 6-0 Big East) shot 65 percent in the second half and 59 percent overall against Providence (8-6, 1-5).

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CONNECTICUT 83, PROVIDENCE 74 Connecticut (14-1) King 10-10 0-0 20, Johnson 2-4 1-1 5, Knight 2-2 2-2, Sheffer 4-11 5-17, Allen 9-13 4-4 23, Moore 0-0 4-4 4, Hayward 1-1 2-3, Jones 3-7 0-2 7, Bryant 0-1 0-0 0, Chapman 0-0 0-0 0, Chapman 0-0 0-0 0, Carson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-62 13-22 83.

PROVIDENCE (8-6) D. Brown 4-7 0-0 8, Coakley 6-13 3-13 15, Gates 8-12 0-0 16, Shammond 2-6 2-2 7, M. Brown 2-7 0-0 2 4, Thomas 7-9 0-0 17, Mladkovic 3-8 0-0 8, Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Lewis 1-1 0-0 3, Cole 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-62 13-22 83.

When was the last NFC Championship Game that didn't involve either the Cowboys or 49ers?

1991 1992
1990 1993
Answer tomorrow.

Answer to yesterday's 'Guess Who': The Cincinnati Bengals posted victories in their two AFC Wild Card appearances; in 1981 (beat San Diego 27-7) and 1988 (beat Buffalo 21-10).

LOCAL KUGBY - Saturday's results: Rishon LeZion 31, ASA Tichonin 14; Hapoel Safed 27, ASA Tel Aviv 19; Hapoel Gvat 21, ASA Jerusalem 16; Hapoel Galil Elyon 16, Hapoel Kibbutz Yitzel 7.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jordan scores 48 points
Michael Jordan showed up rookie Jerry Stackhouse by scoring a season-high 48 points as the Chicago Bulls toyed with the Philadelphia 76ers before pulling away to a 120-93 victory Saturday night.

Jordan, eager to show the fellow North Carolina product there's still a lot left in his 32-year-old body, tied his old season-best of 45 points when he hit a jumper in the lane with 2:20 left in the third quarter.

Stackhouse attempted to defend Jordan for most of the night and had no real success, getting pumf by fake passes or leaving Jordan with plenty of room to shoot. Jordan was 18-of-28 from the floor, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range, 7-for-7 on free throws and had 10 rebounds.

Other NBA games Saturday: Indiana 103, Minnesota 94; Toronto 106, Washington 100; Sacramento 119, New York 111; Detroit 91, New Jersey 80; Atlanta 108, Boston 105; Charlotte 103, Dallas 83; San Antonio 106, Orlando 105; Portland 118, Denver 117; Vancouver 69, Miami 65; Houston 115, L.A. Clippers 104.

Belle admits ramming vandal
Cleveland Indians slugger Albert Belle admits knocking down a Halloween vandal with his pickup truck while chasing the youngster across a muddy field.

Belle, in a wide-ranging interview published yesterday in *The Morning Journal* of Lorain, Ohio, said he braked just as he reached the teen.

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Tsomet likely to delay elections bill, at Labor's behest

Consensus across political spectrum: Labor will yield to temptation of early poll

SARAH HONIG

EARLY elections will probably not be called this week, even though Tsomet said it plans to submit a bill calling for them to be held in early June.

Labor urged Tsomet yesterday to press ahead with the legislation, and Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan said he would consider a two-week delay if he gets a written request from Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Even if Peres does not follow Eitan's cue, and even if he does not explain his request, as Eitan demands, Tsomet is expected to back off from its initiative for the time being.

The near consensus in all parties, however, is that Labor will not resist the temptation to capitalize on its improved prospects in the wake of the Rabin assassination, and will call for early elections. That US Secretary of State Warren Christopher brought on news of a significant change in the Syrian negotiating position has only intensified the speculation that elections will take place in late May or early June.

This did not prevent Labor from maintaining yesterday that for now it has no intention to reschedule the elections. Labor Knesset whip Ra'anan Cohen

said the Tsomet bill would be strenuously opposed by his faction.

Eitan said his party wants to serve as a catalyst for the bigger parties, "one of which seems ready to act without the other or to move first. We are an opposition party, and therefore view it as our duty to do all we can at any time to shorten the tenure of this government."

However, Tsomet will be careful not to risk failure with its bill, since it is voted down, no such bill can be brought by the opposi-

tion for six months. Nevertheless, the government can of its own initiative disband the Knesset at any time.

In any event, Tsomet has already begun preparations for early elections, setting up a campaign headquarters to be headed by MK Moshe Peled.

The final decision by Labor over the election date is expected at the very latest by mid-February, to allow time for the cumbersome election machinery to be set in motion. By that time it should be clear whether there is any

movement on the Syrian front.

The Likud accused Labor of posturing, saying that Labor has already decided to call early elections but "prefers to make the final decision appear to be dependent on the peace process rather than on partisan interests," said Likud Chairman Binjamin Netanyahu. "Labor is resorting to a political ploy in order to exploit the Rabin assassination and the cynical well-orchestrated campaign of slander against the Likud that followed hot on the assassination's heels."

While Netanyahu says his party supports early elections, and be-

lieves "Labor will discover that the voters are smarter than it assumes them to be, the Likud will not assist Labor in its schemes and will not submit the early elections bill Labor wants it to."

The final scheduling of elections, it is said in Labor, will ultimately depend on Peres. If he decides to call early elections, the party will back him; if not, the nation goes to the polls only on October 29.

Preparations are under way in Labor, however, to possibly move the party primaries to April 2 instead of April 17 - just in case.

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Sheves drops out of Knesset race

SARAH HONIG

SHIMON Sheves will not run for the Knesset after all. Maj.-Gen. (res.) Doron Rubin may, and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet is expected to announce today whether he will challenge Prime Minister Shimon Peres for the Labor Party leadership.

Sheves, the late Yitzhak Rabin's right-hand man for years and the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office until June, announced after the assassination that he would run in the Labor Knesset primaries. In a bitter speech in which he blamed the Likud for the assassination, he said he would run in the Dan Region district. However, recent surveys have shown he stands no chance to win, though he may get onto the Knesset list.

Considering his poor personal relations with Peres, a low placing on the Labor slate would not get him a cabinet seat. Thus,

Sheves said yesterday that he had reconsidered "and decided that I am of an active executive nature and not suited to just serving in the Knesset."

Rubin was warmly received at the Tsomet headquarters by party leader Rafael Eitan, who offered Rubin him sixth slot on the party Knesset list, a slot reserved for Eitan's own nominee. Rubin is said to be considering the offer.

Shetreet will announce today whether or not he will challenge Peres, in what may be only a ouster value race. Shetreet stands no chance, but is motivated by personal grievances. He was still working hard to collect the signatures of 300 central committee members and 2,500 rank-and-file Laborites needed to put his name on the ballot. Pressure was being brought to bear on him to desist from what sources close to Peres called "a childish quarrel."



Marc Chagall's 'Jacob's Ladder,' which was stolen from Tel Aviv's Gordon Gallery on Friday.

Chagall's 'Jacob's Ladder' lifted from TA gallery

Jerusalem Post Staff

A MARC Chagall oil painting, "Jacob's Ladder," was reported stolen from a Tel Aviv art gallery on Friday, police said yesterday.

Shaya Yariv, owner of the Gordon Gallery, said the painting, which was to be sold at last

night's Gordon auction, had an estimated value of \$140,000-\$180,000.

Yariv said the painting was displayed prominently in the gallery

when it opened Friday morning. Twenty minutes later a gallery visitor asked employees where the Chagall was. A bent nail was all that was left on the column

where it had hung.

Yariv speculated that the 40 cm. by 50 cm. work could have been smuggled out under a raincoat or cape. "I think the painting is eating oysters in Paris or Moscow by now," Yariv said.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 6-13
Tel Aviv 7-17
Haifa 7-17
Beersheba 8-18
Dead Sea 11-22

Forecast: Becoming partly cloudy to cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	00	07	cloudy
Bahia	22	26	clear
Buenos Aires	18	23	clear
Caracas	11	22	clear
Chicago	09	22	clear
Copenhagen	00	01	cloudy
Frankfurt	04	08	cloudy
Hamburg	04	08	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	27	clear
London	05	08	clear
Los Angeles	15	26	clear
Madrid	08	15	clear
Moscow	05	12	cloudy
New York	07	19	clear
Paris	07	10	clear
Rome	07	15	clear
Sao Paulo	01	02	cloudy
Singapore	26	28	clear
Tel Aviv	05	15	clear
Tokyo	01	03	clear
Vienna	00	02	clear
Zurich	00	03	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, jack of hearts, 10 of diamonds and queen of clubs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pedestrian killed by car

A 70-year-old pedestrian was struck by a car and killed yesterday as he tried to cross the main highway just north of Beersheba.

Itim

Ministers to discuss religious councils

Over the objections of Meretz ministers, the cabinet yesterday decided to set up a ministerial committee to examine the existing law on the composition of religious councils. The Meretz ministers objected that the committee would circumvent the ruling of the High Court of Justice which decided that Conservative and Progressive Jews could also sit on these councils. The committee will be headed by the Justice Minister David Liba'i, and include the Minister of Religious Affairs Shetreet, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Interior Minister Haim Ramon, and Minister Without Portfolio Yehuda Amital.

Batsheva Tsor

School that had radon reopens

Studies resumed yesterday at Jerusalem's Mamlachti Beit school in East Talpote, which had very high levels of radon discovered on its ground floor last month. At the end of last week, the radon readings finally fell below the level considered safe. The school building had been closed for three weeks, with the pupils studying in other locations.

Itim

Nevatim airport idea examined

A committee, comprising of Prof. Yitzhak Swary, Dr. Ramon Harel, and Dr. Eran Feitelson, was appointed yesterday to examine the feasibility of turning the Nevatim military airport in the Negev into an international airport that could siphon off some of the traffic, particularly the night traffic, from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Large Hungarian group visiting

Some 2,500 Hungarians, the largest group to ever visit from the country, are to take part in a convention of the Hungarian Faith Church and the German Gemeinde auf dem Weg, due to open today. The gathering, which is part of the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations, includes the participation of Deputy Foreign Minister Istvan Szent-Ivanyi and Gabor Gellert-Kiss, chairman of the Hungarian parliament's Human Rights, Minorities and Religious Affairs Committee.

Haim Shapiro

Rubinstein to visit India

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein will begin a 10-day official visit to India tomorrow. He will meet with President Shankar Sharma, Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Education Minister Madhabrad Scindia and the speaker of the parliament.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Junior faculty members on strike

Some 7,000 junior faculty members went on strike yesterday at Hebrew, Tel Aviv, Ben-Gurion, Haifa, and Bar-Ilan universities. The action was taken because the committee of university heads does not recognize their roof organization as their representative and because, they contend, their wages have been cut by 50 percent.

The Ben-Gurion faculty is to return to work today, but the other schools will remain on strike.

Itim

Massive kibbutz sign up with Labor

The number of United Kibbutz Movement members who have registered with the Labor Party is more than double the figure prior to the 1992 elections, it was revealed yesterday. According to figures issued by the UKM, more than 29,000 people from the movement's kibbutzim have signed up with Labor, compared to 13,000 in 1992.

David Rudge

Immigrants integrate well in army

A growing number of immigrant inductees are being assigned to combat units, it was announced yesterday at a meeting of the ministerial committee on aliyah.

In March 1994, some 15 percent of immigrants were accepted into combat units, while today it has reached 19 percent. Some 21 percent of native-born soldiers serve in combat units.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Nimrodi lawyers: DA withholding 'vital' evidence

RAINE MARCUS

THE lawyers of Ma'ariv publisher, Ofer Nimrodi, yesterday blasted the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office for "withholding vital information" necessary for the defense of their client.

Nimrodi is charged with commissioning wiretapping and paying hush money to private investigators Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsor.

Following a nearly six-hour hearing before Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge David Rosen, lawyers Avi Yitzhak and Yehuda Weinstein only presented three of their scores of arguments.

The hearing was recessed until January 31. The following day, Nimrodi is scheduled for a plea hearing.

Nimrodi's lawyers claimed they cannot prepare a proper defense because the District Attorney's Office is deliberately refusing to hand over all pertinent information. District Attorney Rafi Levy had argued that all relevant material, except for "classified" information, has been transferred to the defense.

Lawyer Moti Katz, suspected of transferring hush money to Friedan and Tsor on behalf of Nimrodi, has also requested that material deemed classified by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shalut not be given to the defense. He claimed that tapes which he or Tsor recorded, should also be declared classified information.

Katz will also appear as a prosecution witness against Nimrodi and David Ronen, Ma'ariv's security officer, as will Tsor. Judge Rosen refused to allow Katz to be present during yesterday's hearing.

Nimrodi's lawyers claimed many of the tapes they had received from the prosecution had "portions erased" or were "incomplete." The district attorney, they argued, still had 666 tapes in their possession.

Job-seekers drop 25% over last three years

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE number of job seekers has decreased by 25 percent over the past three years, from 142,500 in 1992 to 106,500 by the end of 1995, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said yesterday, summing up the unemployment figures for 1995.

She noted that the sharp decrease in unemployment proves that the government has succeeded in dealing with the "hard core" of unemployed workers. She added that after a rise in unemployment during the first half of 1995, the trend was reversed in the last six months, with a total increase of 0.8%.

Namir, however, expressed concern at the increase in unemployment in the Negev. Unemployment is 13.4% in Ofakim, 11.9% in Mizpe Ramon, 11.5% in Yeroham, and 10.9% in Kiryat Gat.

She stated that the government must implement special development projects in this region and direct advanced industries to it.

The ministry's Employment Service received 202,000 requests for workers during 1995, and directed 329,000 job-seekers to them. However, only 38% of the positions were filled.

Peace costs Jordan TV man job

DAVID RUDGE

JORDAN Valley Regional Council chairman Ze'ev Shore pledged yesterday to do his utmost to help the head of Jordan Television's Hebrew-language department, who has found himself virtually without employment since the signing of the peace treaty between the two countries.

Shore's promise came after he received a letter requesting his assistance from Ahmed Barakat, who was also the chief announcer on Jordan TV's Hebrew-language broadcasts.

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